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THE AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE

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A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Members:

It is astonishing how many times I can
read the proof of this magazine, and not
discover all the errors. But when it is
printed, and it is too late to make correc-
tions, how easily and how quickly each mis-
take can be found!

A year ago it was reported to you that
1949 gave promise of being a most success-
ful Saintpaulia year. We have made great
strides and 1949 having kept its promise we
may close the books on a bountiful year.

Looking forward, it is our belief that
1950 will be one of the most interesting
African violet collectors have ever known.
There is much in the future . . . Many of
the best are yet to come.

The special Christmas Surprise . . . a
beautiful color print of Arthur Chard's
drawing of the Norseman was secured thru
the courtesy of Mr. A. W. Lehman. To him
we say, "Many thanks for your interest and
assistance in making this possible."

Our best wishes for a merry, old fash-
ioned, fun-filled Christmas and a Happy
New Year . . . to all of you, from all of us.

Most sincerely,

Alma Wright

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May the Spirit of Christmas bring you Peace,

Good Cheer and much Happiness for the New Year

Alma Wright

Mary Parker

The Presidents Message

Christmas and the New Year



This issue of the Magazine will reach you, and all of you, just a short time before the Christmas festivities commence, and only a few days thereafter we enter the New Year with all of its promises.

It is a happy and joyous time, then, for me to say farewell as your President. The year 1949 has truly been my year, because I have immensely enjoyed this year's opportunities for service in promoting the best interests and the progressive growth of our Society. To me, 1949 has been a great year during which I was enabled personally to meet so many of our members. Certainly I will especially treasure every day of this year in the future, because of its many pleasant associations.

Next year . . . 1950 . . . already promises to be a really greater year for all of us. We will enter it and continue progressively through it under the splendid leadership and guidance of our new President . . . here she is in the lower left hand corner of this page to greet you! . . . Mrs. Arthur (Myrtle) Radtke. I know of no more capable hands nor sweeter spirit in all of African Violetdom than those possessed by Myrtle Radtke. So, it is a rare privilege for me to thus present her to you.



Myrtle, I pledge you my very best service during your year as President . . . 1950 . . . and the other officers, committee members and individual members of the Society join me right heartily in this pledge of helpfulness to you in the year ahead.

Faithfully,

Your President,

Anna Wright

ADDED INTEREST THRU ARRANGEMENTS FOR VIOLETS

At your next show plan more arrangement classes. Attractive arrangements will add a great deal of interest . . . Show off one or two of your favorite saintpaulias in an artistic fashion.

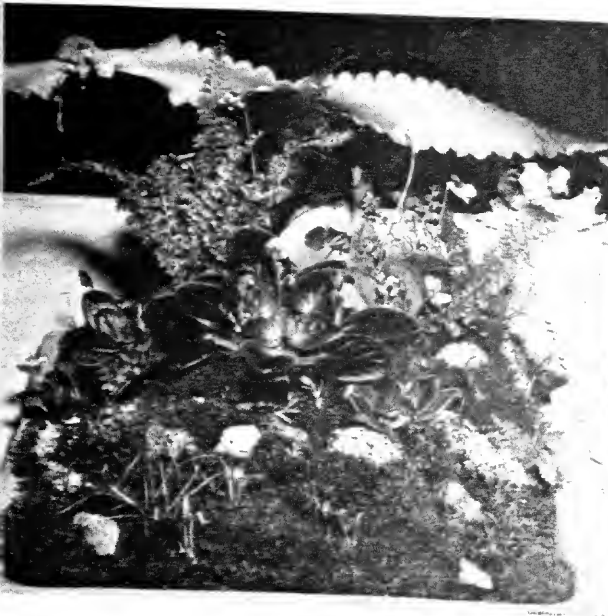
While African violets are almost the most difficult flowers with which to make an arrangement that will justify or enhance their beauty, they do lend themselves to a variety of ideas and settings. Just a little imagination and ingenuity will work wonders, and add glamour to this our favorite house plant.

Last Spring at the Memphis and Shelby County African Violet Society Show, a number of unusual exhibits brought exclamations of pleasure from the visiting public.

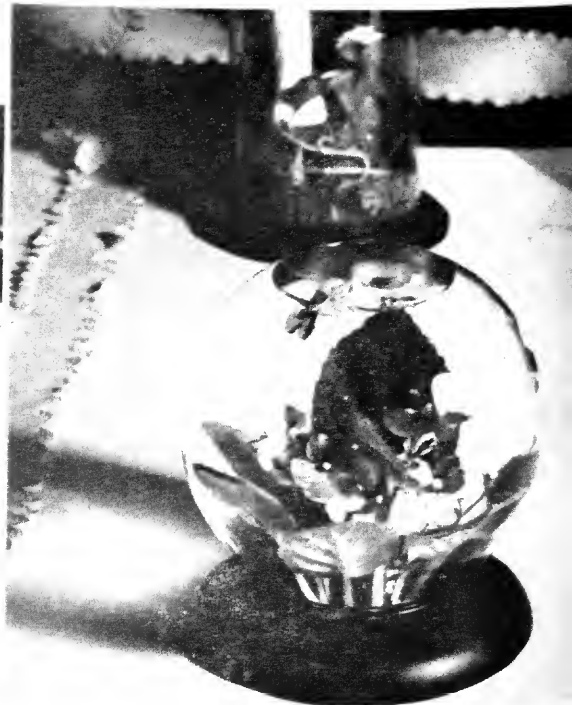
Three of the Blue Ribbon Winners are pictured.



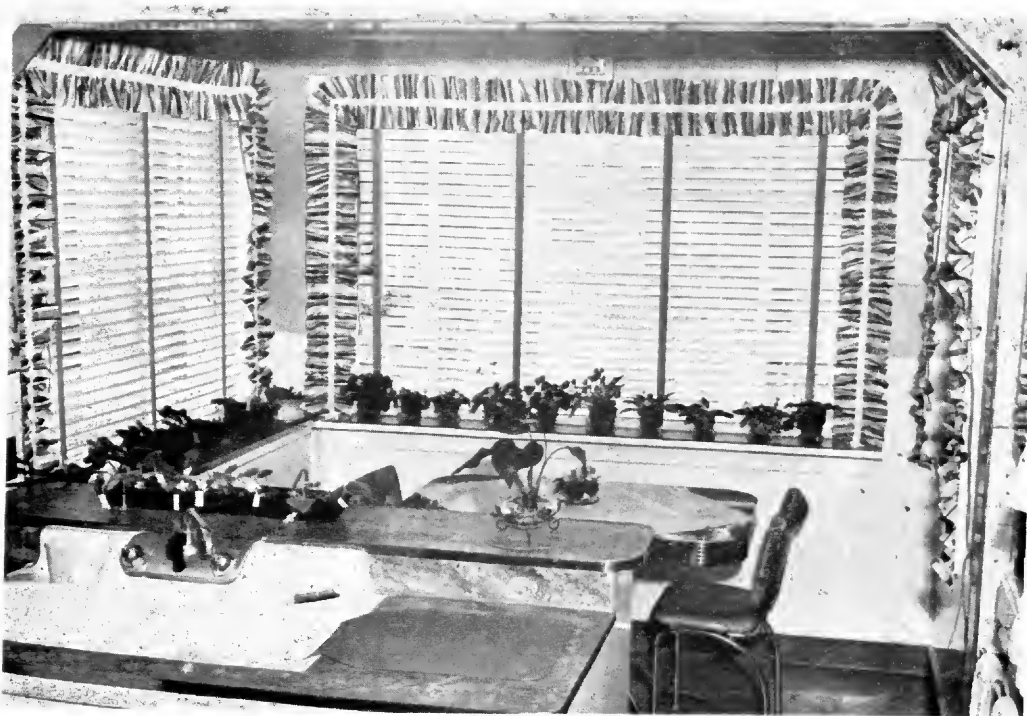
Exhibited by Mrs. W. E. Evans.



Exhibited by Mrs. W. P. Fraser.



Exhibited by Mrs. Horace N. Smith.



FOR VIOLETS--A DREAM KITCHEN

Elizabeth de Sylva

When she planned her kitchen, it was much more important for Mrs. C. B. Ostrander of Rochester, N. Y., to have a place for her African violets than to have a place to eat, to wash dishes or to cook.

Of course she has all those, too, but when the dream kitchen first began to take shape in her mind, it was of her violets that she thought. And so, she designed the kitchen herself.

Needless to say, Mrs. Ostrander's hobby is African violets. So, when she planned the kitchen, she planned windows on three sides which would be their home. And, because the sun does get around to all three sides of the house at various times, she added Venetian blinds that would keep the light right.

The kitchen once ended where the sink now stands but by adding the new part, the back shelf of the sink (the latest model in

sinks, by the way) became a serving table. She has a special shelf with a built-in compartment for cook-books which, if a saint-paulia fancier were less skilled than Mrs. Ostrander, might be used for garden books or files on hobby plants.

The color scheme is heaven blue and canary yellow and seems exactly right as a setting for the plants which blossom in pastel shades which blend. The floor is blue, the ceiling yellow and narrow striped ruffling combines the two colors.

Just outside the window you will see the repeated blue of more than 100 delphiniums. Mrs. Ostrander calls these her "first love," for she's an ardent dirt gardener, too.

But in Rochester she's one of the top specialists in growing the nation's favorite—that little plant from Africa!



a MORNING CHAT

with Mrs. Claude Russell

Good Morning. Come on out to the kitchen . . . this is my African violet workshop. You can watch while I work with a few ailing plants.

I have just diagnosed this case of "Blue Eyes." She has the common pest disease known as "mealy-bug." How do I know what's the trouble? Well, the leaves seem to curl downward and upward with a woolly look to the top side of the leaves. Flowers may not open, and they aren't normal if they do. What to do to eliminate this trouble, you ask? I'll use a toothpick cotton-wrapped dipped in alcohol to remove and destroy the bugs. I sometimes use clear nail polish on these pests when I first discover a few.

To control mealy-bugs, mites, and thrip use a good spray, using one teaspoon of Volck and one-fourth teaspoon of Blackleaf "40" to one quart tepid water. It's important to spray directly down into crown of plant. Use on plants and root cuttings at ten day intervals. Liquid nicotine (one part to 200 parts of water or one teaspoon to one quart water) used as a spray will control pests including mites. Plants should be sprayed every two weeks regardless of size. When a violet plant becomes hopelessly infested with mealy-bug or mites, it's better to destroy the plant altogether and secure a healthy plant.

Do you see that plant over on that shelf? It was suffering from crownrot and leaf decay, caused by overwatering during the rainy weather . . . so we can't emphasize too much that overwatering is very injurious to our plants. Never let water get into the crown as this causes crownrot.

I took this plant up out of soil and put it into a dish of rain water with one pinch of Hyponex using sticks to elevate plant so leaves don't touch the water. A short

time elapsed until new roots began to form. After a good root system had developed I put this plant into a pot of Vermiculite and sand. When plant began to put on new leaf growth I repotted into a well balanced dirt mixture. Mix soil thoroughly before using. Put plenty of crushed cinders in bottom of pot for good drainage. As to repotting, you don't have to worry, they can remain in the same soil two or three years. African Violets are heavy feeders, so use a good alternating food. Be sure not to feed your plants when soil is too dry as it will burn the roots. Here is a good plant food to try as an alternating feeding. The following is good to force plants into bloom and help keep them healthy too.

First week—Water with one teaspoon ammonia sulphate in one quart warm rain water.

Second week—One teaspoon Super-Phosphate in one quart warm rain water.

Third week—1-4 teaspoon Hyponex Plant Food in one quart warm rainwater.

After a couple of weeks feed again. Rainwater is best for all kinds of house plants. Our water has chlorine which is very injurious to house plants.

No, that is no special decoration around the pot. I cut a ring of "Reynolds Wrap Pure Aluminum" to fit the top of my clay pots, and mashed it down both inside and outside of pot to protect the violet leaves from wetting off. Clay pots drink up water and hold moisture, when the leaves come in contact with the pot, they dampen off. This certainly has been a life saver for my leaves that touch the pot.

You are wondering which is the best exposure for your plants? One must experiment with plants and adapt them to their own environment. For instance, one person may find their violets bloom better in a western exposure, while another has proved an eastern exposure is more beneficial.

I have grown in all four exposures, but get better results in northern and eastern exposures, using a glass window curtain to keep out the direct sun rays.



Oh yes, I'm giving my violets their Saturday bath to remove accumulated soot and dirt. During hot weather a weekly shower on their leaves is as refreshing to them as a daily bath is to us. It keeps them clean and gives more humidity for the plants. However, the plants must be kept out of the sun until the leaves are dry to prevent spotting or burning holes in the leaves, as water acts as a lens, and surely will disfigure them.

No indeed, don't ever put your plants where they will be in a direct draft, but always give them plenty of fresh air. They distinctly detest stale air so keep your room well ventilated.

Some growers increase humidity about their plants by placing the pots on a layer of moist sand or gravel in a shallow pan. With this method the porous pots also absorb some moisture, thus eliminating frequent watering.

So Mrs. Jones wants to know what to do about the Red Spider? I've never had that pest, thank goodness! But some good authorities have told me they have controlled Red Spider by dusting with sulphur, but be sure the temperature is below eighty degrees, as otherwise it will burn the leaves. High humidity discourages these pests. Of course, we all know to prevent disease, space the plants several inches apart. Don't handle a healthy plant directly after handling one infected with insects or disease. Sterilize hands first, using a good strong soap.

You say there's a little white fungus growth on top of some of your violet soil? This is "mildew." It may be controlled by spraying the top of the soil lightly with fine sulphur dust.

Mrs. Howell is complaining that none of her violet buds are opening, they form well, but drop off. I asked her if she was using gas to cook with or had a gas furnace. After she told me she cooked with commercial gas, I knew that was her trouble. If a great amount of gas is in the air, foliage will be affected, leaves will curl and become an unhealthy green, and buds will drop off. After the gas company checks for leaks, another test for detecting gas is by using a fresh carnation. If gas is present, the flower will curl up and go to sleep. Dry and low humidity is another cause of bud drop.

From all I've been saying, you would think raising African Violets would be quite an expensive hobby. There are a number of ways to obtain many different plants other than buying. For instance, you and your fellow growers can exchange leaves and start new plants. Because sooner or later you'll realize that you can't have too many Saintpaulias. Yes, propagation is one of the most fascinating things about this intriguing plant. It may be propagated by three or four methods. There's vegetative reproduction, seed formation, division of plants and plantlets reproduced on flower stalks. Let's discuss them one by one.

Vegetative reproduction is the most common method. It is accomplished by the detachment of a leaf from plant body. Any

length stem may be used successfully. Select a nice crisp leaf. It may be rooted in soil, sand, vermiculite or water. Even a leaf with no stem can be successfully rooted. Always leave your leaf for an hour to heal before rooting progress is started as this seems to prevent rot. The stem should not be deeper than half an inch in any growing medium, one-fourth inch is better in most cases. Length of time required to root leaves varies. When water method is used, put leaves in bottle of rainwater or sterilized water, put one-eighth teaspoon of Hyponex and a bit of charcoal in each bottle. Another way is to put a few grains of wheat in the bottle of water. The sugar in the wheat helps prevent leaves from rotting when first starting to root. I find leaves root quicker in blue or colored bottles. Kept out of direct sunlight, they will root in two or three weeks time. A glass dish or aquarium with glass lid is also good to root leaves in, using one part vermiculite, one part sand, one part peatmoss. Moisten with water to which plant food has been added.

Put leaves in slanting. Cover and they develop good root system in from four to eight weeks. Now when you transplant to soil, note that considerable vermiculite mixture adheres to hair-roots. This reduces shock when transplanted. Soon tiny mouse ear leaves will appear. Care should be taken to see tiny plants are not planted too deeply into soil as crown should be free of soil. When transplanting tiny plants and there are more than one to a leaf, cut plants from leaf, set one plant to each pot. The leaf may be put back into whatever mixture is being used, to grow more plants.

Say, have you tried your luck growing plants from seed? Did you know the seeds are as fine as dust, and must be handled very carefully? Plant on top of surface of a good fine medium, equal parts of sifted sand and peatmoss. After sowing seeds on surface of soil, very gently press down with flat object. Water with fine spray or better still, set the box or dish in water and let the soil take up as much water or moisture as it needs. Let the excess water drain off before placing the container in its proper position, and cover with glass lid to insure the right humidity. Water from bottom when needed. Put in a warm light place and keep covered with glass lid, only take off to wipe moisture when it forms. Takes six to nine months to get nice plants. When plants are larger transplant to soil mixture.

Every seedling will mean a big thrill of anticipation while waiting for buds and blossoms. One never knows just what to expect from violet seeds.

We all want specimen plants, but you'll have to watch when double crowns form. Divide and plant only one crown to the pot. A single crown plant is much prettier. Daily turning of pot will keep them symmetrical.

I'm sorry you have to leave now—I hope your visit to my African violet workshop has been beneficial, and that we may visit again sometime in the near future.

THE

AFRICAN VIOLET

HOTEL

by Mable Boyd

An African Violet bug stung me several years ago and caused me to run a very high fever. Finding no cure for the infection contracted from this violent bug, my temperature continued to rise, and I succumbed to the results.

I enjoyed propagation and had excellent luck, but alas, my poor husband and boys -- two young huskies -- found, not only the window sill filled, but themselves literally crowded out, for violets were sitting on every table in the house.

With such an acute violet parking problem, I set to work to devise some means to keep my family happy, -- for they dearly loved "Mama's Wild African Violets", -- and to take care of my plants.

Knowing that cities helped solve their parking problems by erecting automobile hotels several stories high, I designed my African Violet Hotel.

We rushed to finish it and have the plants in place when Mrs. John E. Hooper and Mrs. W. C. Hope of Memphis, Tenn. came to Humboldt as my guests to help set up a society here last fall.

All who have seen it are so delighted that we decided to pass it on to the magazine for the benefit of all people who are living under crowded violet conditions.

The African Violet Hotel easily accommodates from fifty to seventy-five plants and more shelves may be added across the ends to increase seating capacity. Propagation pans may be placed underneath. I use glass baking dishes filled with sand.

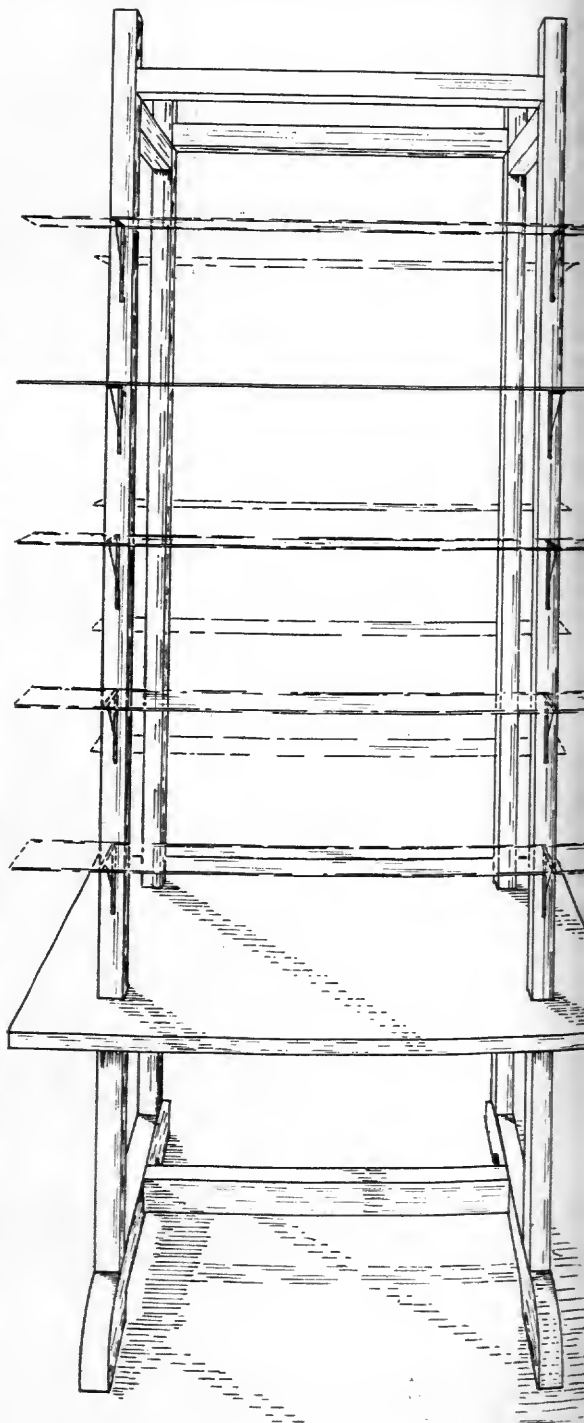
All four sides of the hotel may face the sun from day to day as it revolves easily on ball bearing casters.

At present I am growing *Philodendron* to use, as I think it mixes beautifully with violets.

The entire family has enjoyed the relief given them and the violets have grown beautifully in a home of their own.

Friend husband produced a bright idea for watering so many plants. Drove a nail in the top of one post and hung a fountain syringe. The hose is easily moved from plant to plant and the little clip may be used to cut off water when each little saucer is filled.

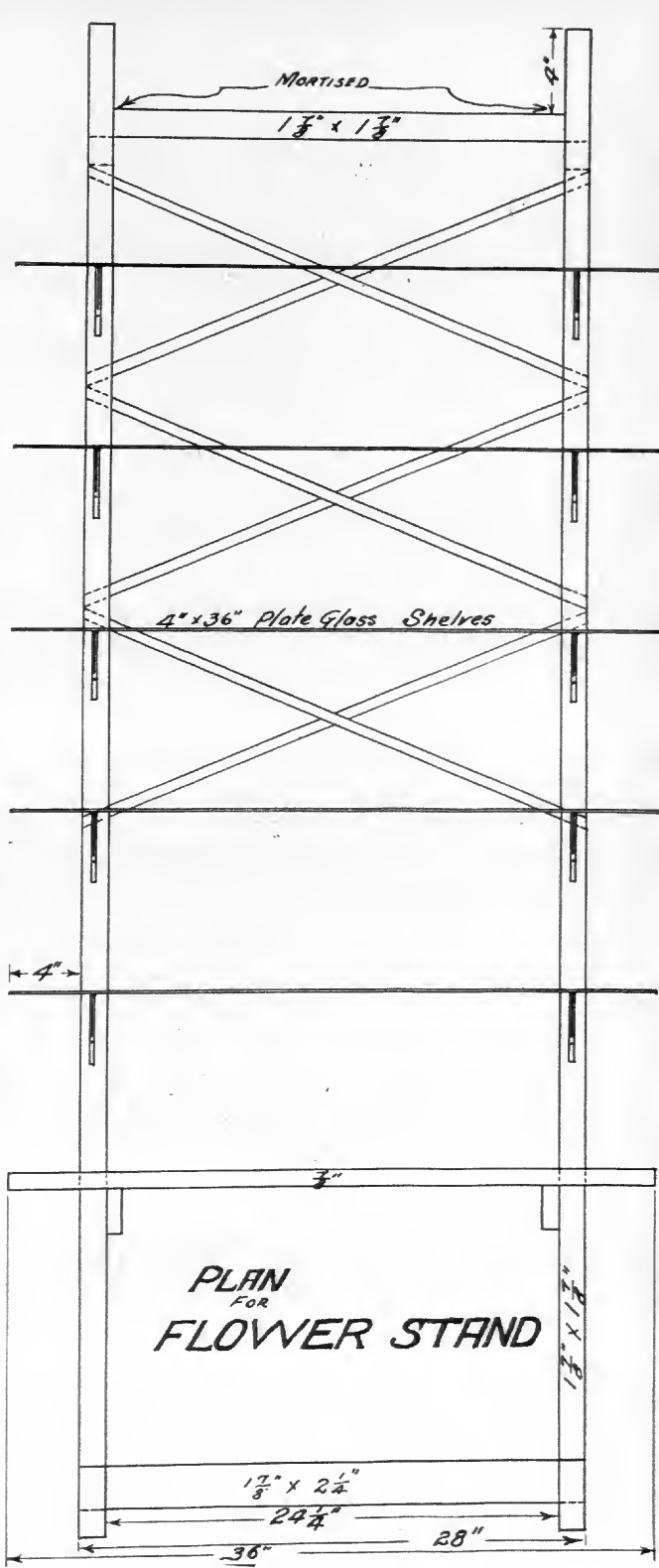
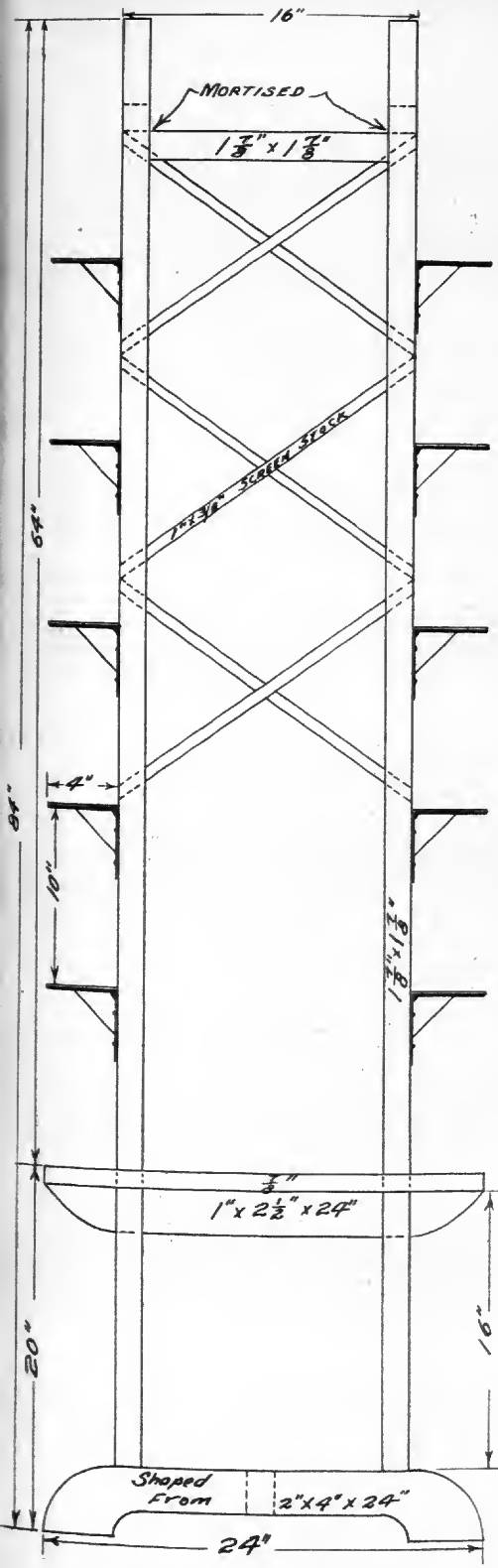
Works wonders! Saves time! Try it!



FLOWER STAND

Perspective

without Lattice-work



FORCING PLANTS INTO BLOOM

Harriet F. Lawton

(The following interviews were obtained by Harriet F. Lawton at the request of the Editor.)

There have been so many requests for information on forcing plants into bloom, the Magazine found it necessary to run an article to "Cover" the subject as far as is possible. "Covering" the subject is scarcely an adequate term, for upon looking into the matter, I find there is a great diversity of opinion among those who have really familiarized themselves with the requirements of the saintpaulia. It has seemed to be the general opinion of African violet hobbyists that these plants can be forced for blooming by a certain date, and they wish to know the magic by which this can be brought about. We all seem to be aiming at the same goal—African Violet Success—but the means of arriving at that goal can vary a great deal.

I believe in glancing over the following letters, you will be as surprised as I was to find so little true "Forcing" done by the people who are in a position to know how. A group of people were approached by mail and I think you will be interested in what they have to say. In glancing over these letters, you will find certain basic facts which you yourself have followed. Again, you will find views expressed which may be in direct contradiction of all someone else has told you. I have one or two such things in mind pertaining to myself.

I gathered from these several letters, that in the main, it is healthy plants we should aim for and that we should not weaken them by a forced blooming. It is quite marked that almost to a "man," those approached feel the same on this point. And, it is worthy of note that even the persons in commercial flower growing do not recommend forcing. They may differ on some other points, but upon this they all seem to agree.

The persons approached for information on "Forcing Plants into Bloom," have been most generous in giving their ideas. As so little forcing is done, and as the two are so closely allied, I am quoting as well the care given plants during the growing period leading up to the mature plant. I hope it will clarify the forcing idea so many of us have had, and that some will derive some new ideas on the early growth of plants. These letters follow:

Mrs. R. R. Blackburn
North Carolina.

"You ask how I force my plants into bloom? I am afraid I do not. Such success as I have I believe is due to the fact that I am forced to keep them somewhat root-bound as I just do not have enough room to

put them in large pots. In fact, I will say that the ones in smaller pots bloom better for me. Last Spring I started using liquid cow manure, and I think I can say I like it better than any other form of plant food. The commercial fertilizer forms a crust around the edge of the pot."

Mrs. Brown of R. A. Brown and Sons
Company, Georgia.

"I'm sorry I cannot give you any helpful information about forcing plants into bloom. We do not force ours; we try to feed regularly, and spray regularly, and we feel that they are better in the long run if they are not forced in heavy feeding or any unnatural treatment."

Good & Reese, Inc.
Ohio.

"We do not force violets in the sense that other plants are forced for specific dates.

If we desire to 'crop' the flowers for a specific date, we disbud the plants five to seven weeks prior to this date. The variation in time is due to seasonal variations. For instance, in March and April when the plants are in vigorous growth, five weeks is sufficient, but in winter months with shortened days, seven to eight weeks may be correct.

We never vary the temperature in our houses, carrying a constant 65 degrees. For this reason we do not force violets as is customary with other crops. For instance, in growing an Easter crop of lilies, the temperature may be increased to 85 degrees. This is never done with violets.

We use a small quantity of a complete fertilizer in our potting mixture soil. We then feed with a complete liquid fertilizer whenever we feel it necessary. There is no definite period for this but merely the application when we feel the plants will respond. We never use dry fertilizers as a top feed for fear of burning."

Mrs. C. H. Harris,
California.

"My idea of forcing African violets and not exhausting the plants is to give them a good rich soil with about half humus, good drainage, not over potting, systematic watering being sure to never over water, maximum light from eight to ten hours a day, and the thing that is so very hard for so many people to have, quantities of humidity. Violets will grow in very arid places but will not bloom, so this last item is in my estimation, the most important of all."

Mrs. C. L. Larson,
Michigan.

"I do not force my plants into bloom because I believe they do not need it. If you have good soil and water them with Hyponex, also give them regular care beside fresh air, this should be enough. If you force them you may have plants not nicely shaped. I use nothing but the clay pot although I have quite a nice collection of glazed pots in the attic."

Mrs. W. W. LaMar,
Maryland.

"My opinion on forcing small plants to bloom is, give them an abundance of light, in summer preferably a North light and other seasons an East, and keep the plants in tiny pots, (2" size) until buds are showing. After that plants can be shifted to next size pot and plant will continue to bloom."

I feel that light plays a more important part in the growing of African violets than any other one factor."

Mrs. George F. Pendleton
Missouri.

"I feel there is no one thing by which an African violet can be forced into bloom, but if I were asked to give the most important factor, I would say 'good strong light.' However, no plant in poor condition can be expected to do its best so I feel in order to get prolific bloom it must be well grown. To me, there-in lies the secret if there is one."

Soil is very important. My soil mixture runs something like this:

- 1 part garden loam
- 1 part leaf mold or rich compost
- 1 part well rotted manure
- 1 part peatmoss
- ½ part sand
- 1 teaspoon bone meal to a 3" pot

A plant under or over watered cannot be considered well grown so one must have a fair knowledge of how often and how much to water. It is not too important whether you water from below or on top but I prefer bottom watering; just enough warm water in the saucer until it shows dampness on the surface and not again until the top soil is completely dry.

A good fertilizer once a month helps. It encourages bloom; also adds size and richness of color.

Circulation of air is always important. I prefer a rather cool room about 65 degrees rather than a warm room, and as I have previously stated, light and more light is essential for profuse blooming. That does not mean sun light except the early morning sun before it becomes warm enough to burn the leaves, then a thickness of lace curtain must be drawn between the glass window and the violets. Sometimes two thicknesses of curtain are necessary but never draw the window shade and shut out all of the light.

I raise my violets on tables close to the windows, (two East, two South and one West). On long benches behind these tables I raise the younger plants that are getting ready to bud. All last winter I kept my window sills full of the plants I took from these benches and in no time they would be blooming long before the others. They had the benefit of all the light possible and when the sun reached the window I folded a sheet of white tissue paper lengthwise and placed it between them and the window until the sun was gone. These plants not only bloomed profusely but were extremely sturdy and compact, having the most luxuriant foliage of any I had."

J. A. Peterson & Sons
Ohio.

"We start our violets in vermiculite giving them approximately two months to root and send up small shoots. We then pot them into 2" or 3" pots and set them, pot to pot, on sand with bottom watering in a fairly dark house. (about 400 to 600 foot candles.)

We believe the general troubles in using straight vermiculite come from people watering too much and if you have a watertight container, you are faced with another problem, since the excess will have no chance to run off.

After the plants have made some quick, soft growth, we generally space them out on cinder benches. This is to give them more air to dry out to harden them for flowering. The light should be from 600 to 800 foot or possibly 1000 foot candles on a bright day.

On the cinder benches we are using top watering in some cases; bottom watering in others, trying always to use warm water. We have found that single crown plants will bloom before multi-crown plants. (Some varieties respond to this to a greater extent than others.)

Also, we have found different varieties require different amounts of light, but it is always true, the more light, the more flowers, even to the extent of some damage to the foliage. Violets are low feeders. They want some fertilizer, but not too frequent or too heavy doses. We fertilize using 3 pounds of a 15-30-15 mixture per 100 gallons (2 oz. per 5 gals.) once every 3 months. We suggest that plants with good foliage growth may be brought into bloom quicker by withholding fertilizer, keeping them on the dry side and by giving them more light.

At present we are using the same potting mixture for the first potting as we do for subsequent potting. It is my opinion that a lighter mixture would be better for the first potting.

As a general practice we pot from a propagating bench directly into 3" pots and quite a few customers have said that our plants ship better and make sturdier plants because of the heavier soil.

A little more information on the subject of light. In recent checks we have found we are down to about 200 foot candles on some of the newly potted plants and find we are getting very good growth. This is probably due to the fact that we are getting this amount of light over twice as long a period as the 400 to 600 foot high during the winter months of the year."

Mrs. R. J. Schadewald
Pennsylvania

"When the heat is turned off in the Spring, my plants usually start their rest period. Those that are left blooming are placed in a northern exposure, as this exposure tends to intensify the color of the blooms. The remainder of my plants are transplanted at this time. They are never transplanted during a flowering period. I do not water my plants so often during their rest period, as the Spring Season when house temperature changes seems to be a ripe period for crown rot. I use common clay flower pots and water only when the soil is quite dry; about every six days. I put only enough water in the saucer that can be drawn up in one hour. I water occasionally from the top so that the useful elements will be drawn down through the soil again, from the soil surface.

About the last week in August when new plant growth seems to be active, I start feeding my plants Hyponex every ten days. Although plant food containing the most Phosphate Acid promotes blooms, one should be careful not to overfeed. When I fed my plants a 13-26-13 Plant Food, I discovered that my blooms were much smaller due to an overfeeding. I immediately went back to using Hyponex. A pinch of super phosphate may be placed in the plant saucer or added to the soil mix to promote bloom."

Two teaspoons of powdered alum added to one gallon of rain water may be given to intensify color of leaves and flowers. Rain-water is especially good because it is soft water and the minerals of hard water are not present.

Plant Chem has been used successfully by members of our African Violet Society of Delaware County to promote plant growth and blooms. Most of us fed our plants either Hyponex or Plant Chem weekly starting two months before our Spring Violet Show, and we all had an abundance of blooms for the show.

I have had equal success with blooms in all exposures although it is necessary to protect the plants from strong sunlight by drawing the blinds in Western and Southern exposures during the summer months. They need light but not much sun.

Mrs. Frank Tinari
Pennsylvania

"We still feel Hyponex is tops. If we can feed thousands and thousands of plants 'overhead' with Hyponex, without injury to plants, then surely the home grower can do it in their top or bottom watering without injury, used according to directions on box. We are very, very careful in whatever we use to follow directions.

In conjunction with Hyponex we are using also this new Proliferol; it too is proving itself excellent. We like to keep up on the really new things so are passing this on to you for what it may be worth. Too, we still stick to Hyponex, it's an old friend we can't turn back on; it is wonderful. We change off one to the other here in feeding."

Mrs. W. Duff Wilson
West Va.

"First of all, I don't ever force my violets to bloom. I take a very good leaf from a plant and root it in water. In about 4 weeks I plant the leaf in $\frac{1}{2}$ Michigan Peat, and $\frac{1}{2}$ Vermiculite. Usually I keep the leaf covered for a few weeks with an air space. When these are about two months old I separate the little plants into 2" pots. I use a mixture of one-third soil, one-third peat, one-sixth sand and one-sixth manure. As soon as I transplant them, I water with a warm solution of Hyponex water. Usually I use one-fourth teaspoon Hyponex to two quarts of good hot water and let the newly potted plants absorb this. I water with this same solution once a week for three weeks after they are transplanted. These plants should not be set in the strong light for about 3 days. Then you can put them in a place where it is light and warm. These little violets should never stand in cold water and should never be bone dry. Both affect the white feeding roots which are developing. After the roots have developed, then the blossoms begin to form. When they are about 5 months old, begin giving them a little Hyponex water (one-fourth teaspoon to 2 quarts water—good and warm) about every ten days. My little violets then begin blooming between $5\frac{1}{2}$ and $6\frac{1}{2}$ months.

To me, the secret of making violets bloom, is taking care of each step of their life, just at the time they need to be pushed another step forward.

I grew over a thousand violets last year in my apartment. After running my 17 experiments, I found it was best to separate the little ones from the leaf as soon as they were $1\frac{1}{2}$ " tall. This way, the larger plant can be rushed on to the blooming stage and the others will come along too, only that they need a little more time to develop, and have that chance when the larger plant is taken away. This allows the smaller plants more light and more air. Also, it gives them a chance to develop into symmetrical plants.

Violets should always be brought to bud stage in two inch or two and one-quarter inch pots, then transplant into three inch just as they begin to bloom."

Now that you are through glancing over the above quotations, I would like to add my two cents worth; it may be of help to someone! !

I have followed Mrs. Tinari's idea of the Hyponex and liked it a lot. Plants certainly picked up a lot under this and I have found that it is not so strong that one is apt to burn foliage and roots. (If used according to directions.) I have one other aid

to coaxing plants to bloom, and it has proved to be successful by many. That is the use of superphosphate in water. (1 teaspoon to 1 quart of warm water) Water with this once a week. Water from the top, being careful not to wet foliage. Superphosphate is an element that will go only where it is put. It will not travel both ways, (up through the soil as well as down) as will the nitrogenous elements. Therefore, water from the top as this will be carried down around the root system with the water. If watered from the saucer this element will not work its way up through the soil. It takes about 4 to 6 weekly feedings of this to make buds appear. Never try to coax anything but a healthy plant. When buds show color, then discontinue the use of superphosphate. I have an acquaintance who raises beautiful plants. She uses this method of forcing in the fall, but only after her plants have had a full 3 months rest period. When plants are rested they can tolerate a little more coaxing, but they cannot be constantly pushed. Greenhouse growers would probably caution you against the use of superphosphate for this purpose. Mrs. Schadewald has stated her views on this. There is danger of over doing it, but upon inquiry I have been advised that the dose as mentioned above is very mild, and can do no harm if used as directed. However, know when to stop. Enough is enough!! Also, a teaspoon of superphosphate and one of bone meal in each quart of potting soil is a builder upper.

I trust the above ideas from various sources have been of help to some of you. As none of these people believed in a definite forcing program and gave so gener-

ously of their ideas on the growth and health of the plant from the plantlet up, we have given you the whole thing as one could not well be separated from the other.

Best Wishes to all our friends
for a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year

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GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS IN BUBBLE BOWLS

Jeane Myers Hilliard

A window of bubble bowls will certainly become either a conversation center in your home, an object of beauty, or a miniature greenhouse or hospital.

Some years ago while glancing through a gardening magazine my eyes were suddenly drawn to a picture of a console table, upon which rested a Christmas decoration of a bubble bowl filled with an African Violet plant, a candle stick and a sprig of pine between the two objects. This made a very festive and attractive table. Immediately my mind set to work trying to find a space in my house for such an object. Since that time my library windows have been decorated, so to speak, with three 10" bubble bowls. The center one is Plum Satin flanked by Pink Beauty and Sailor Boy, although Sailor Boy is a bit leggy for this kind of planting. 'Tis a pleasing effect from my driveway and callers after saying "hello" usually ask, "How did you plant them?" and, "Do violets grow well planted in this manner?" You probably are thinking the same, so I shall attempt to give you my method of planting.

To keep the dirt from showing the bowl is first lined with bright green woods moss. In the bottom I sprinkle a few pieces of charcoal and some cinders. The second step is to place coarse, porous, rich dirt, about 2 to 2½ inches, leaving a hole for the plant. You are now ready to select a plant, preferably one which is medium sized and has a well established root system. Shake the dirt from the plant and place as near as possible in the center where the hole has been made. Take care to spread the roots in all directions if the opening in your bowl is large enough to let your hand through. Cup the leaves up gently so that the plant can drop through without damage to leaves and stems, as often the plants are brittle and the leaves will pop all around the outer edges. Now you are ready to finish covering the roots with the same rich soil as placed in the bottom of your bowl. Cover up to the edge of the first stems. If you wish, moss can be placed on top of the soil but usually the leaves cover up the dirt—this step is a matter of choice and does not hinder or help.



No doubt by now you have dirt all over the bowl, your arms and your work table. To cleanse the inside, I usually do two operations at once by watering around the edge from a watering pot. The outside can be cleaned with glass wax or some such polish. To cleanse the leaves a small florist spray can be used gingerly but firmly to dislodge any stubborn particles left.

It was from here on that I learned many helpful things about caring for and growing African Violets (and I've been growing them for over ten years). In bubble bowls African violets can be forgotten, unwatered and "unputtered with" for indefinite periods. They create their own moisture and therefore are especially desirable for hot, dry houses. They are protected during the winter from drafts and low temperature where there is a fluctuation of heat. In the spring they are protected by an extra layer of glass which wards off sunburn. Really it's the answer for those who have little time to spend caring for their plants and it's ideal for those who forget to water. (Most of us have the watering urge much too often.) Should I say it's a real lazy man's way of having blooming plants?

Plants grown in this way will bloom profusely and for a long period of time—however, they have to be fed more when they do begin to rest—but by this time you may be tired of this particular plant and want to change so as to get another color effect. Each time you change plants you will declare, "this color is the loveliest"—"but aren't all our violets lovely?"

To use as a hospital I fill the bubble bowl with peat moss and vermiculite. I've never had luck with sand mixed with anything, so I'm a vermiculite believer. Plants suffering from root rot especially are well and sprouting roots in no time. Leaves planted in these bowls give forth baby plants unbelievably fast. I feel bubble bowls are the answer to those of us who are not fortunate enough to have a greenhouse.

So I say again, growing African violets in bubble bowls can be a joy, most especially, I think, to the novice because it is easy; the plants require little attention and bloom generously over a long period of time.

YOUR HINT HUNTER

Phyllis Ferrall
Rt. 5, Box 551
Battle Creek, Mich.

Have you tried Syco-bowls yet? They are most attractive and my African violets grow beautifully in them.

Edith Mackey of San Gabriel, California advises us to use a bulb syringe to remove surplus water from the dishes or trays our plants are in. She also plants three different violets in a single 5 inch pot. For example: A Blue Girl, a Red Head Girl, and a Pink Girl. I have tried this and they are interesting to watch in the progress of their growth.

Rainwater is good for your plants. If you are in a section where purification chemicals are present in your drinking water, and you have trouble catching rainwater, distilled water may be used. It may be purchased at most filling stations. Your plants will love it.

A plant cape is very useful, says Mrs. Milton Eckhardt, Baltimore, Maryland, for retaining the soil while showering off your plant. To make one, cut a circle about the size of a dinner plate from an old raincoat or a piece of shower cloth, cut from outside to center. Place the cape under the leaves over the dirt holding it close to the pot. This leaves one hand free to work with. A dish sprayer is ideal to spray with.

Mrs. Eckhardt recommends commercial manures because they are sterilized and are more likely to be free from black flies and other pests. She also suggests when leaves are rooted in water that the container be kept in the shade.

Professor E. C. Wildon, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan says, "Leaves will root more quickly in water if black paper is placed around the container". He emphasizes too that sterilized soil should not be used immediately. It takes at least a week to bring germination back to its natural state.

Mrs. F. H. Fortney of Galion, Ohio uses her pressure cooker to sterilize her soil. It comes out moist and sterile after it has been cooked for 45 minutes at 15 pounds pressure.

"Discarded battery jars are fine for rooting leaves", says Maxine Wangberg. She uses 4 inches of rooting medium in the bottom. If leaves are limpy they will soon perk up if the jar is covered with a small square glass.

If you are interested and enjoy this column let me know and don't hesitate to send in your hints. Happy Hunting!

Editors Note:

When writing to Mrs. Ferrall, please enclose a self addressed stamped envelope for your reply.



WINDOW-WALLED GARDEN IN HODGES HOME

Frances DuBois

The Alvin Hodges have no need to envy Aladdin and his magical lamp, for they have wrought a little miracle of their own in their home in Terrace Park, Cincinnati, Ohio. They made summer distant from winter only the second's time it takes to step from their living room into the gay window-walled garden dining room that borders the South side of their house.

It had its start 10 years ago, when Mr. and Mrs. Hodges envisioned a little plant room in the angle between the kitchen wing and the main part of the house. With the help of an ordinary "hammer and saw" carpenter, their dream soon became a reality.

All along the windows that line the south and east sides of the room there are plants—plants on the sills, on the shelves,

in brackets fastened to the frames, and on tables.

The trailing branches of wax plant outline the windows in graceful festoons, a rosy azalea brightens a corner, pendant runners of saxifrage drape over a glass shelf, the pink and green leaves of coleus mingle with the crimson foliage of bloodleaf, and scarlet and white sultanias add their old-fashioned charm. And everywhere are African violets, some 30-odd varieties; red-purple, blue-violet, lilac-pink, and lavender-blue, all the colors blending in beautiful harmony.

Even on the most dreary day this room holds brightness and cheer. The crisp gaiety of woodwork and wrought iron furniture painted white, and canaries singing among the branches make you feel you are in the midst of a garden.

MY METHOD OF PRODUCING FULL BLOOMING SPECIMEN PLANTS OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

Anna Layson

When one African Violet grower meets another, they never ask who your grandmother was or what does your husband do, but how many violets do you have and about your varieties. So I have approximately two hundred plants in my home, but my husband always says a thousand! ! He feels like the violets are steadily encroaching upon us like our first settlers felt about the forests.

To stimulate good root growth in African Violets has held my interest. If a plant has a well developed root system, it will give good performance; but, lacking these roots, it is unable to take up the best plant food in the world.

The fine roots of the African Violet enjoy a loose root run. I like my basic potting soil mixture of loam and sand to be rich in organic matter, preferably coarse natural humus found in woods soil or a good compost soil all sifted and well mixed. It is the organic matter in the soil which nourishes the soil bacteria. These soil bacteria manufacture solvents which render the minerals available to the plant. Plants must drink their food; they cannot eat.

A good soil holds both water and air at the same time. Moisture and air are held in spaces between the soil particles. Where there is an excess of water, the air is driven out and the soil becomes waterlogged and the plant suffers from lack of air. Lack of water, on the other hand, also upsets the balance between air and water. A plant will make more root growth when the soil is drying down. The roots reach out for water as the supply diminishes and root growth results. African Violet roots will quickly reach down to the bottom of the pot for moisture and air. To afford this condition, I cover the bottom of the pot with a little sterilized sphagnum moss, and on top of the moss put a scant tablespoon of ground limestone or chat that is used on our driveways or roads in this locality, tamp down and proceed with my soil mixture. I also take a strand or two of the sphagnum moss and twine around the roots. The sphagnum moss encourages the growth of the fine roots which soon penetrate into the new soil. This ground limestone in the bottom of the pot not only facilitates drainage and aeration, but also keeps the soil from becoming stagnant.

I water in the morning from the top until about an inch of water appears in the bottom saucer which is usually absorbed by noon, and feed alternately once a month with liquid cow manure and liquid commercial fertilizer after plants are well established and budding or blooming, but withhold feeding through the shortest days of the winter months. I try to avoid a root-bound condition or my plants becoming too dry, as any slight neglect will jar African

Violets into second growth or production of suckers. However, these young shoots may be rubbed off of the plant early in their development.

African Violets are sensitive to light and sun. Plenty of light produces continuous bloom but it should not be so strong that it will bleach the color in the foliage. A little sun is beneficial. A little shade from a thin curtain or tissue paper is usually sufficient protection. Good air circulation at all times, summer as well as winter, is needed. I maintain a minimum night temperature of 62° and daytime 68° to 70° degrees.

Since using ground limestone in the bottom of my pots, I have not had a case of sick violets from wilt. Previously, I had fine blooming plants to droop and wilt, when I felt sure they were not overwatered. I have used this potting method for over eight months without a single plant showing wilt.

It is interesting to hand-pollinate for seed, crossing varieties with the most desirable foliage. For the very small African Violet seed, I use a woods loam, sifted through a piece of window screen and baked at low temperature for thirty minutes. * I cover the bottom of a glass dish with an inch of this moist soil, scatter evenly the seeds and cover with a piece of glass. Keep from light in a warm place, give air every morning and replace the glass cover. Water very sparingly around the edges of the glass dish. After young plants begin to appear, afford more light but do not expose to sun. When these plants are two inches high, I transplant to three inches apart in same kind of soil in a larger glass dish or pan. I keep transplanted plants covered with glass until growth starts. When needed, I pot into two and one-half inch pots in regular potting soil and when showing buds, start feeding.

Vermiculite is my rooting medium for cut leaves. This is a sterile inert medium which is conducive to root growth. Since vermiculite contains practically no plant food, I pot the rooted leaf in soil as soon as young sprouts appear around the stem and divide the colony of young plants when large enough to handle easily. Vermiculite should never be kept too wet. My young plants remain in two and one-half inch pots until they bloom or when roots demand shifting. I prefer the three-quarter or azalea pots and underpot as to size.

(*There is some question as to whether baking for only 30 minutes at a low temperature will destroy nematodes — Editor) (Through the courtesy of Mrs. Layson, this copy of her talk at the Convention was made available — Editor)



PLANTS DISPLAYED AT PARTY IN ANDERSON HOME

Spring's most luscious hues were reflected in tea decor for the open-house event staged by Mrs. Edwin Anderson, Lansing, Michigan.

Responding to the request of local and out-of-town friends and members of the Lansing branch of the National Farm and Garden Association, Mrs. Anderson invited 150 guests to view for themselves her multitude of African violet plants now in full bloom.

The hostess' fame as an African violet expert, which has taken her on many lecture tours in the past 10 years, was strengthened when early arrivals at the open-house glimpsed the large picture window in the Anderson home.

Displayed in a riot of color were Saintpaulias — nestled in gleaming copper containers — and set on a tiered table before this window.

The living room coffee table held a Double Duchess violet plant and the other tables were colorful with rainbow shaded violets in copper buckets.

Practically every room in the house was decked with violets to illustrate the love of the hostess for her favorite plant. Special built-out windows in the kitchen and glass shelves in the den were stocked with the violets.

In the dining room, the centerpiece was a huge Commodore violet in a dark purple shade. This was set in copperware to complement the copper candle holders in which deep pink tapers stood. A Quaker lace cloth covered the table and two wren figurines, in deep pink, added to the spring effect of the table. Violet blossoms had been scattered near the wrens.

Mrs. Ralph Toaz and Mrs. Samuel Young had charge of the tea table. Pouring during the afternoon were Mrs. A. S. Metzger, Mrs. H. E. Cope and Mrs. Harry A. Wilson.

Guests were welcomed at the door by Mrs. H. C. Cunningham and Mrs. A. J. Seyfried, assisted by Mrs. A. T. Wilson and Mrs. W. H. Beck.

Acting as hostesses around the rooms were Mrs. Sam Beck and Mrs. William C. Buchanan.

SELECTION

By Roswell H. Johnson

There are other factors involving the choice of plants for one's collection which may be of more importance than just personal preference.

There is the selection of parent plants for use in hybridizing. Here we may follow either one of two different systems, each fully justified and neither to be neglected. The first one is for intensification of the desired trait. For instance, if the goal is size, then we will cross pollinate between the largest plants we have. However we may not want to sacrifice some achievement in a second trait, so we may cross the largest we get having the second trait. Both parents should have the trait to a large degree. Do not assume that a given trait is carried by either the pollen or seed parent plant only. This is a widespread belief, but it does not work with other species, and there is no definite proof that it will in the African violet. If it is ever found to be true, it will be a rare trait carried outside of the genes. The genes carry nearly all traits.

The second system, and a most important one, is that of combination. We may have a variety that has excellent color and size but has some poor trait, possibly slow growth, then we will cross this variety with another with excellent growth habits that will enhance as little as possible the undesirable traits, that is, its color and size will be as little different from the first chosen plant as possible.

In combination crossing, be sure to cross some of the resulting seedlings together and also with each parent for a second generation, as the first generation may fail to give the desired combination. Grow a large number of the second generation seedlings, many more than the first generation.

Since many of the varieties you are using are themselves hybrids, you may hope for a fair variation in the seedlings of an ungraded pod or one where the label is lost. If that is all you have, plant them, until you get more nearly what you want.

Passing now to another kind of selection, deciding which of the numerous seedlings you will select to bring to maturity. Here are four rules:

1. Carry on with the first and strongest to show.
2. Watch anything that looks different.
3. Keep a few from the main crop.
4. Save a few of the last to germinate.

Let us now assume that your seedling has flowered, and you are ready to consider the possibility of introducing it. The first and prime consideration is whether it is different enough not only from its parents, but also from other varieties already introduced. Here is where showing it to others is wise and necessary. The second consideration is whether, even though sufficiently different, it has merit. In examining a plant as to merit be sure that it is a good "doer." If it has some unique quality that sets it apart,

but is not a good "doer" hold it to use as a future parent and attempt to overcome its shortcomings.

The greatest danger of assuming novelty where there is none, is when the foliage or flower is compared with others at some different stage. The seedling should be compared not only as a newly opened flower, but also as a dropped corolla. Still more is this important with leaf traits. Leaves go through a great deal of change in their development. Early leaves are different from late ones, young ones from old ones. Make your comparison with this in mind; otherwise the seedling might have a type of leaf at the time of comparison that looked different, but later comparison would show it to be only a particular stage of growth. To appreciate this, note the difference in a du Pont Lavender Pink leaf in early, middle, and late stages of foliage development.

The saintpaulia hybridizer may learn a valuable lesson and save much precious time if a careful study is made on what has been already worked out on other plant species by our floriculturists. The old saying, "History repeats itself" is appropriate. For many years in times past with many other plants, greater emphasis was placed first on color and size of bloom, just as the greater emphasis is placed on the color and size of saintpaulia blossoms today.

After the progress slows in these traits as it does eventually, more time will be given to the development of African violets with unique as well as attractive foliage, plants which are more highly disease resistant, plants which grow more rapidly, and plants whose blossoms have at last fragrance. And finally, developing a saintpaulia with a wider tolerance to surroundings so that they may be grown under many and varied conditions. Let us learn from others' experience, and start now to work on these later traits which ordinarily get attention only in the future.

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LAURA E. GREEN
541 Denise Rd.
Rochester 12, N. Y.

SHOW PLANTS

Eunice Toms

"What are the qualities that constitute a Show Plant?" is the question asked by seven out of ten people who visit and view an African violet show. Usually the question is not put because of any desire for information. It is simply that six out of the seven disagree violently with the decision and awards of the judges and use this subtle way of showing their disapproval and/or superiority in the matter of judging. Some members of the club sponsoring the show will also disagree—usually rather noisily. They seem to overlook the important fact that the judges were employed, not to approve of the club's wishes in the matter, but to act impartially and to the best of their ability.

The Show Committee of a recent African Violet Show took a popularity poll from among its visitors by handing each a slip of paper containing the request "Name your favorite plant." The favorite turned out to be the plant that was awarded "Third Best Plant in the Show" by the judges. This was probably part coincidence. The plant was a very fine one; well grown, shapely, and blooming abundantly yet when some people were asked why they chose that particular plant their replies ran along this line, "It is so pretty," or, "I have never seen that variety before and would like to have one." This line of reasoning is correct when merely asked to name your favorite plant, but unfortunately it is also the line used by the critics when they do their own private judging of a show. Second greatest number of votes went to a plant of Pink Beauty that did not even rate a ribbon in the opinion of the judges. The plant did, however, merit and receive the notation on its card "Beautiful blooms." In other words the voting in this case was completely wrong as the votes were cast on the lovely flowers and not on the plant for it only had one side. Mentor Boy was awarded the distinction of being "Best in the Show" by the judges, yet it received only three votes out of hundreds! A lady, when asked why her opinion differed replied, "Oh, Mentor Boy! Everybody has it."

It might be well to mention here that Mentor Boy usually manages to come away with one of the three best awards, and rightly so. Why? Because it is definitely show material; of easy culture, prolific with its blooms and well behaved in that it does not sucker as readily as many other varieties. A well-grown plant of this variety is a joy to behold. White Lady on the other hand seldom rates a place among the top three. When it does get there you really have a fine plant. Of easy culture and abundant bloom it has had growth habits. It is practically impossible to have a symmetrical mature plant of this variety for it tends to become straggly, and is perpetually making suckers that spoil the shape.

African violets are not judged from a viewpoint of personal preference, mere eye appeal, or abundant bloom which sometimes camouflages a badly shaped plant or damaged foliage. Neither does the rarity of a variety prejudice the judges in its favor. Show plants are not selected by a casual look-see, but are subjected to rigid and thorough scrutiny by weighing each against the other.

What then are the qualities that constitute a "Show Plant"? First, the plant itself, its shape (symmetry), condition and health. This naturally and automatically eliminates multiple crowns, for no Saint-paulia can be shapely nor can it grow in its natural position as one crown growing against the other has its leaves pushed out of place or intertwined.

A generally accented scale of points used in judging is as follows:-

| | |
|--|------------|
| Leaf pattern (symmetry)..... | 35 points |
| Condition (cultural leaf perfection) | 25 points |
| Quantity of bloom (for variety)..... | 20 points |
| Size of bloom (for variety)..... | 10 points |
| Color of bloom..... | 10 points |
| | 100 points |

Let us consider a plant's leaf pattern. A symmetrical rounded specimen has most of the points in its favor as it eliminates the stragglers and lopsided ones. A nicely rounded plant with neatly spaced leaves is the best foundation on which to build good showmanship, and is the proof of care and good breeding. (The size of a plant is generally not a point in consideration when judging African violets unless there are two plants that reach the same degree of perfection. In this latter case the plant most nearly mature size would carry the weight. On the other hand a small plant as near perfection as possible would have it all over another that was lacking in any of the necessary qualities even though the other would be two or three times as large).

In valuating a plant's condition the following questions must be answered favorably. Is the color of the foliage average for the variety when grown under good conditions, i.e., not bleached or yellowed? Are the petioles average for the variety and the age of the particular plant; or are they too long, showing evidence of too poor light; or, is the plant too close and bunched, showing evidence of too strong light? Is the foliage clear and unmarred by sunburn, sprayburn, chill or broken leaves? (One marred leaf can spoil the appearance of an entire plant.)

Health conditions of a plant are manifest in a number of ways. There is freedom from disease and insects or the after effects of these pests. Clean foliage is a necessity for the health of a plant and shows not necessarily loving care, but consideration

for the plant's wellbeing. Carelessness in raising Saintpaulias can be evidenced in the general condition of the plant in its shape and health. Plants that droop unnaturally (for the variety) show neglect in watering at one time or another. The leaf and petiole may, at the time of showing, be firm and turgid and still droop unnaturally simply because at some time the plant was allowed to become excessively dry, and when water was again applied the weight of the leaf was too much for it to be raised without help. The petiole then assumed a curved position. Had consideration and forethought been given in this case the leaves would have been raised until the stems became rigid enough to support them. (This could have been accomplished by placing the pot in a large container slightly deeper than the pot, and wide enough to rest the leaves, not the petioles, on the edge of the container. Or a deep newspaper "collar" could have been made and the plant placed inside with the leaves resting on the top of the "collar" until the desired position was again achieved.)

Wide gaps in the rows of leaves also show improper care. The too long petioles of the outer row may designate improper exposure when the plant was young in that the plant reached out for light. The closer overlapping layers of the center may designate that the plant has lately been given better lighting condition, or the reverse may be possible, and good light conditions may have lately been changed to too strong an exposure thereby causing the center of the plant not to develop properly. Too marked a contrast in the coloring of the rows of leaves will also show the effects of varying light intensities from one time to another.

Shape is a very important factor in judging. Is the plant symmetrical? This is the one bugaboo on which show visitors are misled. It stands to reason that a plant's best side will be exposed to the viewer, and from that one side the plant may appear perfect. However, the judges are at liberty to get closer to the plants to turn them, and see them from all sides. Plants that are never turned to the light are either too short on one side, or a side will have a tendency to grow upright. The plant may be too wide in one direction or an oval shape instead of a more rounded one.

Judging African violets practically necessitates a knowledge of the various varieties especially when considering the blooms of the plant. Are there the average number of blooms for the variety and age of the plant? Mentor Boy, if mature, would not be considered a show plant if it only bore three or four stalks of bloom, for this variety, as mentioned before, is prolific. On the other hand the duPonts would not be discarded because they carried but three stalks as they are not abundant bloomers, and this fact must be taken into consideration.

Then there is the size of the bloom. For example, there are two Mentor Boys, both are in full bloom. One has the usual flowers for the variety while those on the other are much smaller. The former has a point in its favor because of the size of its blossoms.

Shade of the color of bloom must be considered, and here you have a ticklish subject for saintpaulias are not consistent in this respect. There is a general accepted shade for each variety, and blooms that are too light or too dark subtract from the plant's total score.

"How can one raise show plants?" The following nine points of procedure will help:

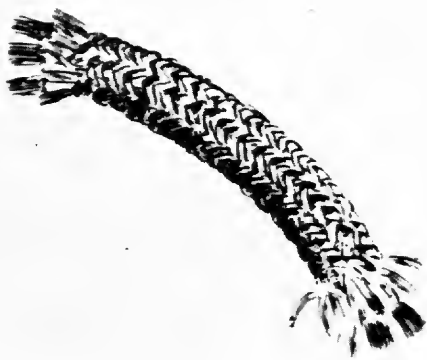
1. Use good potting soil. One that is loose so the roots can penetrate easily, and rich enough so that the plant will have available a constant supply of food.
2. Adequate light but not too strong.
3. Proper humidity and a constant or frequent supply of fresh air.
4. Water when necessary. Do not allow to become waterlogged or excessively dry.
5. Avoid overcrowding as this hinders proper development of the plant.
6. Wash plants frequently under proper conditions to assure health, and make possible the plant's ability to breathe.
7. Fertilize growing plants, especially those that have not been repotted or shifted for a year or more.
8. Remove marred or broken foliage, faded blossoms and suckers. Separate multiples when young.
9. Turn plants to the light so that they will develop uniformly on all sides. Remove leaves to balance plants that are too one-sided.

It is the writer's personal opinion that a dozen well grown "show plants" are more desirable to have than a house full of "space fillers" even if there is no expectation of ever exhibiting them in a show. To form a better understanding and appreciation of the work involved in show judging, do take the above scale of points, and impartially evaluate a few of your own plants. Then work to build up your lacking points. All our windows could be show places of perfection.

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Mrs. Neil C. Miller

Layton's Lake, Penns Grove, N. J.



A



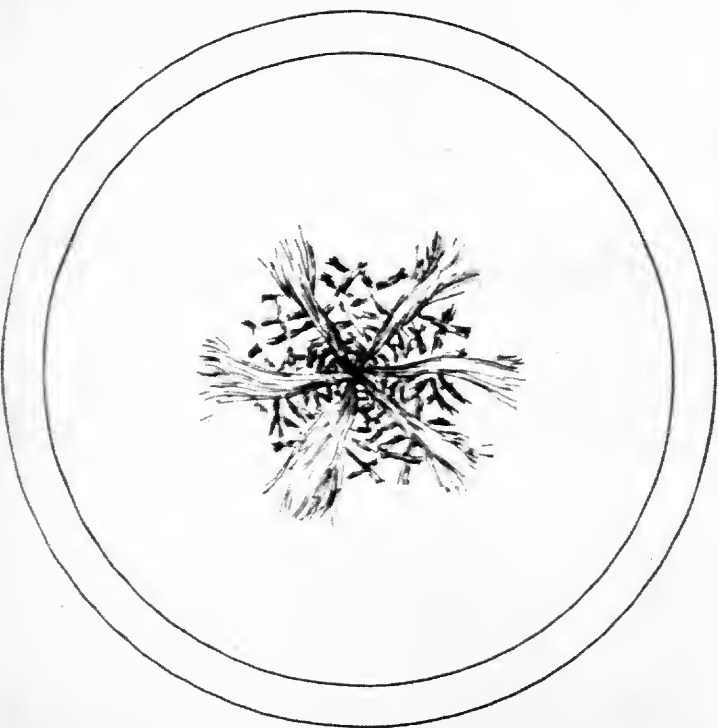
C



B



E



D

GLASSWICK

Rosa Peters

A. Glasswick is several strands of glass yarn loosely twisted, and held in a woven cover of the same material.

B. Take one length of Glasswick and loop it around two fingers. Use another, longer length and tie around the center of the looped piece.

C. Rest the looped end on the bottom of the pot and push the longer length through the drainage hole.

D. Pull out the ends of the Glasswick very carefully. It should be spread evenly over the bottom of the pot until the drainage opening is covered.

E. The Glasswick should touch the bottom of the water container. For smaller pots use the small single strands of yarn. For the larger pot use Glasswick as it is. The amount used depends on the size of the plant and the pot it is to be grown in.

I imagine by now, many of you African Violet lovers have given Glasswick a trial, and hope all have had the satisfaction from using it that I have had. My first experience with Glasswick was about four years ago, using the No. 3 size in a twelve inch wooden seed flat. The seed to be planted were extremely tiny and very choice. I knew my success depended upon holding a steady moisture, as drying out at the time of germination would prove fatal. The result was quite satisfactory.

Last fall, I planted a packet of African Violet seed, using the brick method. It wasn't a total failure, as I raised one plant and it is different from any other variety in my collection. I had "plum" forgotten about the success I had using Glasswick four years prior, but decided to try planting African Violet Seed again, this time using

Glasswick. I put a No. 2 1/4 inch wick in a six inch clay pot, filling pot two-thirds full of screened plaster gravel, the remaining one-third with a mixture using: 1 part plaster gravel, 1 part peat, and 1 part neutral celery soil, - finely screened, and the entire contents sterile. On May 26th, the seeds were planted, and on August 26th (three months later), there were 310 seedlings double rooted, some even measuring close to two inches, and still many younger tiny plantlets in the seed pot.

I cut up my remaining 2 1/4 inch Glasswick into four inch lengths and used them in four inch violet pots. Before long I noticed an improvement in my plants. So I placed an order for fifty feet of wick, with the Atlas Asbestos Company at North Wales and inserted the desired length into all my four inch pots.

Our home is very dry thru the winter with a 22% to 26% relative humidity, and we all know the effect of this on blossoms. But with my pots given the "new look", the humidity advanced to 45% and 50%. My Saintpaulias commenced to form buds and have supplied me with a riot of color ever since.

I bought the pint, wide mouth Ball jars to set my flower pots in; having so many to care for, it made it easier to watch the water line. One must learn not to over-water with wick. I never put more than 1/2 inch to 3/4 inch water in the bottom of the jar. Every third day I check the containers, never adding more water until all has been absorbed and the plant feels a little on the dry side.

This method, Glasswick watering, is an added expense - but, with it increasing humidity, thereby producing more blooms, controlling Crown Rot, being a time saver, and allowing violet fans the enjoyment of short vacations - I consider the results most gratifying!

SAINTPAULIA SURGERY

Lorna Anderson

Don't be afraid to operate on African Violets. It isn't necessary to be a skilled surgeon.

If you have an old plant that has a long neck or stem, use a very sharp knife and cut it off even with the soil. If the cut-off is too long, cut off enough so there is about a one and a half inch stem left. Some of the lower leaves should also be pulled off.

Put powdered Transplant, as much as a dime will hold, in a bowl of warm water. Place the plant in this solution for about one half hour to combat shock and wilt.

The cut on the part which is still in the soil should be dusted with sulphur, using a small water paint brush. The sulphur will heal the cut. Set the pot away

from the sunshine, and water as any other plant. Little leaves will soon grow on the healed scar and a lovely plant will develop.

Dust the stem of the top which has been cut off, after taking it out of the bowl containing Transplant, with rootone, and plant in soil with the crown even with the top of the soil. Keep it out of the sun for a few days. Water as before. This will take root quickly.

Don't hesitate to operate on a blooming plant, as it will continue to bloom with no setback. Some varieties take longer than others to start the new plant from the old roots, so be patient. Seldom do they die, and it is gratifying to have two plants from one.

CALUMNEA

(kal-lum'-nee-ah)

Louise F. Smouse

Our darling, the African violet, is only one small, dainty member of a very large, interesting and most attractive family named Gesneriaceae, which you should find an interesting companion for your violets. In this issue we are introducing Calumnea.

This cousin of the African violet, from tropical America, is known to have two varieties, "gloriosa" which is the lovely plant in the picture at right, and "aurantiaca."

Gloriosa we have observed and grown and are more qualified to discuss.

Calumnea is considered an epiphyte—or "air plant" that scarcely roots but supports itself on other plants—without being parasitic. Therefore an excellent medium in which to grow them has proved to be fern roots, or light humus.

Their velvety foliage is brilliant, leaves about one inch in length and green with purple hairs giving a brownish appearance. They are red beneath which makes a rich setting for the scarlet flowers. Ruth Merry of Massachusetts has them in bloom in the photograph. She describes the blossoms as about three inches long, the lower part tubular, opening into a large upper and small lower lip. She tells us to water the plants sparingly and feed once a month.

Being tropical they need high humidity and for our pleasure must be confined to greenhouse or warm window culture.

A. A. Longmire of California tells us this species may be propagated by single eye cuttings, layering leaf petiole or by seed, following the same method as for Saintpaulia seedlings.

It is said that members of the different genera of Gesneriaceae will cross freely, which is unlike most plant families. This would indicate an unlimited field for cross hybridizers.

Photograph — Thru the courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Percy A. Merry of Needham, Massachusetts.





VIOLETS ON WHEELS

"This stand for my African Violets has proven very practical," says Mrs. George Vallin. "Several violet fans here have had similar ones made and report favorably on their use. The mobility of the stand is one of its outstanding features. It can be wheeled to a new location any time, closer to the light, or farther away as the condition of the plants indicates."

We live in Beaumont, Texas. Most of the houses in this part of the country rely on gas heaters (natural gas) for heating, and as a result uniform heat over the house is not the custom at all times.

Our winters are not severe but night temperatures do drop below the comfort point for one's saintpaulias. It is an easy matter to roll the stand into a room where the temperature can be more or less controlled and the plants protected."

This display of African Violets won Mrs. George Vallin the sweepstakes award in the Spring Flowers on Parade Flower Show sponsored by Beaumont's seven Garden Clubs, held in the Lamar College Union building, on May 8 and 9, 1949. The same display also won Mrs. Vallin the tri-color Award of the Horticulture division

A LATHE HOUSE FOR SUMMER

Clarissa Harris

(Regional Vice President for Region No. 10
—California, Oregon, Washington and
Nevada.)

It is Hello and Goodby as your Regional Director for District No. 10. When this issue of our fine magazine comes off the press, I will have served the society two years as Director, and having accepted the post of Second Vice President for 1950, will have to give up this most interesting work. Those telephone communications or a personal visit are regretfully relinquished, but I know someone else will have an opportunity to enjoy these privileges.

Now about African Violets. Upon returning from the Convention in Cincinnati the plants were all as healthy as could be, but no blooms, and the results that I have had in getting them to bloom may be of interest to others.

First they had to have a feeding and not too suddenly, so in checking my notes from the Convention decided to try Mr. Harvey's "1,2,3,4" method. For those who did not hear him, here is the formula . . . First Week, water with Vitamin B-1 solution; Second Week, plants are watered with Superphosphate; Third Week, water with Vitamin B-1 and the Fourth Week, a watering with Hyponex solution.

Having learned the hard way that high temperature during the day and low temperature at night would not produce a profusion of bloom or large blossoms, I looked for the location that would give a more even temperature. Plants growing in the house had never produced much bloom during the

summer. Those in the greenhouse where the temperature regularly raised to 90 degrees and much higher ceased to bloom at all, and seemed to do just too much resting. When they did bloom the flowers were not up to their usual size, so plans were made to place a few plants under lath to watch results. After having doubled the lath so that the noon day sun was not permitted to enter, it was found that an additional covering several feet below the ceiling of light weight muslin was necessary to protect the foliage. Here it should be said that glass was placed on the windward side to an elevation of a foot above the plants placed on the top shelf, thus allowing a free circulation above the plants but protected from drafts. The floor and under benches were covered with sand to hold moisture. Here the temperature ranges from 60 to 75 degrees and never above 80 degrees, which the Research Department of California Technical Institute reported is the ideal temperature for maximum bloom. The results were such that gradually all the plants found their way to the Lath house for several months.

The season for rains ends around the first of June in our section, and there is little possibility there will even be a shower before September or October. Therefore, damage by cold rains is eliminated, and only when the night temperature falls to around 55 degrees will there be any thought of bringing the plants in, with the exception of a few in full bloom to keep the windows



from looking so bare. I admit I could not be happy without some around, but if they show signs of not doing their best, out they will go in exchange for others.

Occasionally the plants are sprayed but only when the sun is not too strong. The water is used from a tank in the glasshouse, which is adjacent. On days when the humidity is low a spray under the benches runs for several hours, but this moisture reaches the plants only by evaporation.

What are the results from this type of treatment? The plants have become much huskier, the foliage a rich green with dark veining and the petioles take on a touch of maroon and cease to reach for the sky. The flower stalks are sturdy and very healthy looking and produce many more flowers. The flowers do not lose any of their size, as do so many of the African violets in hot weather, and if anything, are larger and the color is very deep and rich especially with the red violets. Another most important factor is that the flowers are holding on from two to three times as long, therefore more blooms are in evidence at a time. Instead of the plants sending up one or two flower stalks there are as many as six to eight.

After this experiment the plants are going to the Lath House every summer. It is my belief that with this treatment the plants will bloom for longer periods, and would suggest that others try a similar method, especially if you wish lots of bloom during the summer months.

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VIOLETS FOR VETERANS

Neil C. Miller

"There's many a green thumb on a crippled hand."

The above quotation is from Harvey Cox, the real driving force behind the formation of the Veterans Project. "There's many a green thumb on a crippled hand" is more than a statement of fact. It is a challenge to the membership of the African Violet Society to seek out those crippled hands and place African violets in them, so that the owners can realize, perhaps for the first time, that they really do have green thumbs, and in the realization find something to break the monotony of hospital life, and to bring interest and cheer into an existence that might become drab and humdrum.

Harvey is himself a disabled veteran. He knows full well what an interest in growing saintpaulias can do for "those left behind" in veterans' hospitals. Almost from the date of organization of the African Violet Society he has urged the Society to do something about it.

About a year ago, Mrs. Freed recognized the importance of what Harvey had been urging, and the implied obligation to the Society not to ignore it. At about the same time, Mrs. Brown, of the firm of R. A. Brown and Sons, Newnan, Georgia, offered gifts of plants, in quantity, for such an undertaking. So Mrs. Freed proceeded to set up the present organization as an extension of the Homing Pigeon Department. When Mrs. Freed found it necessary to relinquish the homing pigeon work last summer, the Veterans' Project was set up as a separate department of the Society, headed by a Director reporting directly to the Editor.

The goal of the Project is to provide hospitalized veterans with African violet plants, and to guide them in plant culture and care until they have reached the point where they know how to grow the plants and no longer need instruction. It should be noted that the aim is to introduce African violets to the veterans, not merely to establish African violet clubs in the hospitals.

There are 129 veterans' hospitals in this country, with an aggregate of over 100,000 patients. Not all of these locations are suitable, for reasons that will be explained below, but the figures do indicate the magnitude of the job that can be done.

As all the work in the hospitals will actually be done by sponsoring groups, this article is for the most part a set of instructions for clubs or other groups who want to participate in the movement.

Of course, the practices to be followed have not been thoroughly developed as yet.

But it is believed that use of the following procedures should produce effective results.

1. The first step is for an already-organized club or some other group of African violet enthusiasts to decide to investigate sponsorship of a hospital group. Ordinarily, the presence of a veterans' hospital within reasonable distance will be sufficient reason for a decision to investigate.

2. The next step is to write to the Director and inquire whether any work is already being done at that location. Most hospitals are large enough that several sponsoring groups can work in them, but each succeeding group should know of any preceding work.

The letter to the Director should give the name of the hospital being considered, the name of the sponsoring group (if it has a name), whether any informal contacts have already been made and other pertinent matters.

3. Upon receiving a go-ahead signal from the Director the sponsoring group should contact the hospital head and ask for an interview to discuss the matter with him. Generally the request should be by letter, but occasionally it can be by telephone or personal conversation. The hospital head may delegate the answering of the letter and granting of the interview to some other official, such as Special Services Officer, Recreation Director, Physical Medicine Rehabilitation Director, or someone else, but the mere fact that the head has been contacted will give dignity to the request and will cause it to receive consideration that it might not receive if a lesser official were contacted first.

The request-for-interview letter should point out that the idea of starting an African violet culture group in the hospital is under consideration and that information and advice on the suitability of the location must be obtained from the hospital before actual decision can be made.

4. One person from the contacting group should be designated as the spokesman and should know in advance that she (or he) carries the responsibility of telling the hospital head or interviewing official just what is to be attempted, and how it is proposed to be done. This information, at least, should be given: That the goal is the introduction of African violets to the veterans for the recreational or therapeutic values they can get from them, that the plants and other necessary supplies will be provided free of all charge, that the sponsoring group will return at definite intervals to correct mistakes and to guide the veterans further in the culture of violets, that the best publications avail-

able will be given free of charge, that a co-ordinated effort is being made to set up similar groups in veterans' hospitals all over the country, and that the sponsoring group is acting as representative of the African Violet Society of America.

After the above information has been given, the question of the suitability of that particular hospital should be discussed. If the normal patient residence is less than three months, the location would ordinarily not be suitable, not enough could be taught in a shorter time to make the effort worthwhile. This will immediately eliminate most operative, postoperative, and classification establishments. It will also eliminate many Army hospitals; the patients there are soldiers and will soon return to duty. But the hospital officials may be able to suggest certain wards or groups even in these short term hospitals where the average length of patient residence is greater.

The best prospects lie in those hospitals or wards where the patients are more or less permanent, such as the tubercular, the psychiatric, the maimed, or even the blind.

5. If the location appears suitable, it may be desirable to proceed at once to find patients who would be interested. This will frequently be the case where sponsoring group is composed of a few individuals. When the sponsoring group is a club, it may be necessary to report the findings back to that organization for actual decision to go ahead.

Once the decision has been properly made to proceed, the next step is to find patients who would be interested. It will be necessary to rely rather heavily on the opinion of the hospital official as to how to do this. He may feel that posting a notice or making an announcement will be sufficient; he may call on persons in close contact with the patients, such as nurses or chaplains; he may suggest simply visiting a ward and talking with the men there, or he may know of an immediate nucleus of interest.

Frequently, it will be found that groups who regularly visit the hospitals, such as the Gray Ladies, the American Legion Auxiliary, World War II Mothers, and others, can give useful information in this regard.

The fact that enthusiasm may not be apparent should not be allowed to cause abandonment of the effort. Many of the men have been in hospitals for some time, and have seen many attempts "to do something for the boys" come and go, and they may be skeptical of this one, or they may feel that caring for a plant would be just too much bother, but the well-known ability of saintpaulias to grow upon you should not be forgotten. How many people who now have African violets on every window sill had the slightest idea of getting the second one when they got the first one?

6. As soon as possible a date should be set for the actual launching of the project, the delivery and distribution of the plants. The date can be set in advance if the plants are collected locally, but it will depend on time of arrival if the plants are shipped.

When the sponsoring group is a club, there will ordinarily be little difficulty in collecting enough plants from among the membership. But if the sponsoring group is a few individuals, it will frequently be necessary to call on the commercial growers. A sufficient number of wholesalers and mail-order retail houses have already pledged their support to guarantee that a supply of plants will be no problem. Shipments will generally be in crates of twenty plants, by express collect. Larger shipments can be made if necessary. The sponsoring group will be expected to absorb the express charges. (Although where the sponsoring group is composed of a few individuals and paying the express would be a burden, the express charges will be met from a treasury fund established through the generosity of Elsie Freed.)

Requests for shipments of plants must always be made to the Director, who will place the order on the most conveniently located co-operating grower. The commercial growers are donating the plants, they must not be faced with the problem of deciding whether the requests coming to them are bona fide. They will honor only requests that come from the Director.

The plants coming from the commercial houses will generally be the regular shipping grade of in-bud-or-bloom, although sometimes they will be of different ages. Plants collected from club membership do not need to be specimen plants. It is better to present bud-less young plants that would adapt themselves quickly to a new location and a new (and inexperienced) routine of care rather than beautiful blooming plants that might resent being moved and collapse quickly. Plants in a variety of stages of development are desirable.

One plant per man seems best as a starter. More can be supplied later if it appears advisable.

7. At this point, after the situation has been surveyed and found suitable, and definite decision has been made to proceed, the Director should be notified. If a request for plants is made, the one letter can serve both purposes. A brief report on the type of hospital, interest of officials, and ward in which the group will be established, should be made.

The Director will write a letter to the hospital head confirming the fact that the sponsoring group is acting for the African Violet Society of America and at the same time thanking him for his co-operation.

8. At the meeting at which the plants are actually delivered to their new owners, explanation should be made of only the barest minimum of the essentials of violet care. The routine of watering, and light and temperature requirements, should be covered. But probably not much more. It would be better to give too little rather than too much information. For many of the men, it will be their first experience in caring for a plant, and too much information would make the process sound complex and difficult.

Probably dishes will have to be provided in which the plants will set. Some shipments may have to be potted, but generally potted plants will be shipped.

Definite arrangements should be made to return at some future date (a two week interval between visits is suggested) to provide further instruction.

9. The second session will probably have to be devoted to observing the results to date, correcting errors in understanding or practice, and supplying additional details.

10. Subsequent visits should include instruction in such things as fertilization, starting plants from leaves, potting out, diseases and insects, pollination, raising seedlings, etc., in other words, the normal program of an active and inquiring African violet club.

Sometimes it will be fitting to serve refreshments at these meetings.

11. The Director should be notified when actual placement of the plants has been made, so that the publications can be forwarded. Helen van Pelt Wilson and Mary Margaret Odom have both donated enough of their books that one copy of each can be provided to each hospital group. And a year's subscription to the African Violet Magazine will also be entered for each group.

The name of some responsible individual in the hospital group should be forwarded with the request for the publications so that they can be forwarded directly to the hospital.

Requests for the publications must be made to the Director, not to the authors or editors.

12. As soon as the time seems auspicious, the idea should be suggested to the hospital group that they organize as an African Violet Club. At some locations the proper time may be at the initial meeting, at others it may be months later, or never.

The goal is not simply to form clubs, the goal is to bring violet culture, with its multifold expanding interests, to the veterans, and if organization does not fit into that purpose, it need not be urged at all. But where there is interest, there will generally also be organization.

13. A brief report is to be made to the Director monthly, giving the status of the group, progress to date, problems confronting it, outstanding difficulties or accomplishments, etc.

14. Sponsorship is for one year. By the end of that time the hospital group should be able to go on without help. If it can't, it is doubtful that further expenditure of effort would produce commensurate results.

However, if the sponsoring organization wishes to continue contact after the one year sponsorship has expired, there is no objection to their doing so.

It may be necessary on certain occasions to deviate from the procedure outlined above, but it should be considered as a guide and adhered to whenever possible.

It is recommended to sponsoring clubs that the committee set up to handle the work have continuous existence through the entire length of the sponsorship and not be changed with the annual election of officers. This should give continuity that might not otherwise be obtainable.

No plants are to be sold to the veterans by members of the sponsoring group during the life of the sponsorship. Plants supplied them are to be free of charge, no matter what the source of the plants.

There is no objection to including nurses or other hospital employees in the groups, if their inclusion aids in the attainment of the goal: to introduce violets to disabled veterans. The nurses can provide very valuable help, and judicious gifts of plants to them may go a long way toward getting that help. But care must be exercised that the effort doesn't degenerate to the point where all the plants land on nurses' windowsills.

Many hospitals have greenhouses which supply flowers for various services within the institution. Frequently the patients have access to them. But the total number of patients who can get diversion from activity in the greenhouse is small. Growing violets will be largely a bedside-table or window-sill activity; it neither conflicts with nor is enhanced by the availability of a greenhouse. So the fact that there is a greenhouse on the grounds does not present any deterrent to forming a violet growing group in the hospital.

Resourcefulness may sometimes be needed to avoid "stepping on the toes" of other organizations who also visit the hospitals. Such groups as the Gray Ladies, American Legion Auxiliary, World War II Mothers, and others, have a long record of excellent service. Their co-operation should be sought and used to the fullest extent. But the program should not be turned over to them. Giving instruction in growing African violets involves imparting special knowledge and special skills, and turning the program over to others simply because they are already working in hospitals won't impart either the knowledge or the skills.

All the details on the local level will have to be handled by the sponsoring group. Manifold complexities would be introduced if the Director tried to handle them. The Director will participate in the work only to the extent indicated in the step-wise procedures. Of course, the Director is always available for advice and co-operation.

Several clubs had started work in veterans' hospitals long before the present movement was organized. A number of growers had made quantity gifts of plants. Many individuals have given plants and instruction. So work for veterans is not new to violet growers nor original with the present project. What is provided now that was lacking before is that central direction is given to a wide-spread effort to take the work into as large a number of hospitals as can possibly be reached.

All references so far have been to veterans' hospitals, because that is where primary effort is to be made. But an almost equally promising field is in soldiers' homes. There are a large number of these throughout the country and inmates are equally deserving of attention. Many of the homes are fairly small and have names that do not proclaim their true character, so they might remain unnoticed. Clubs that feel they can't do anything because of distance from a veterans' hospital may find that there is a soldiers' home almost in their back yard.

And it will be surprising if violet enthusiasts don't find other institutions where the inmates would be benefited by being given violets and the necessary early instruction in growing them.

Now that the organization has been set up and the procedures outlined it is up to the Society membership to do the rest. What is needed is workers, people who will give a little of their time to make the lives of our hospitalized veterans a little more enjoyable. Won't you be one of them?

The Director can be reached at the address shown on the inside front cover.

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A WHIMSEY

Lillie L. Jefferies

One Blue Monday, Mentor Boy and Mary Wac, were sitting side by side on the table. Mary Wac said, "Oh I feel so drowsy." Mentor Boy was already droopy, his head on the table. Soon they were both fast asleep and dreamed these dreams . . . A little Red Head Girl with her Curly Special and Rosalie with her Ruffles asked them out to play Dahl's with their friend Blue Bobby. They see a Blue Bird and a Red Bird as they Zig-zag thru the Summer Skies toward the West Coast Amethyst. A Blue Butterfly floats across the Heavenly Blue. They each picked a Nosegay. Their afternoon was Supreme. When a Dainty Maid, Judy, called them they came in with cheeks that were Pink Perfection and Rosv Plum lips, and ate their food with a Blue Scoop and a Red Spoon . . . Now a Marine and a Sailor Boy are both in love with a Mermaid. When they hear she is courting a Commodore and an Admiral they quit her cold, not wishing to be just My 2nd Prize . . . At the Imperial court White King, Orchid Queen and Purple Prince rule by Royal decree . . . Attended by My Lady Marion, My Lady Frances and My Lady Joan they sip Regal Wine. Little Lilac Lady was a Blushing Maiden when the king Commander to stop flirting with Blue Knight and play the Orchid Flute . . . One evening at Twilight as the Purple Mist drifted over the Redland, Jessie and Mrs. Boles went walking to see the Ozark Skies. There was a perfect Royal Sunset. It was Gorgeous. Near Midnight they returned home by Starlight and found Blue Jane with tears in her Blue Eyes. Double Russian, her Hearts Desire, had deserted their Blue Darling for a Painted Ballerina named Red Beauty. Dressed in Blue Velvet and Old Lace she believed that she was no match for her rival who wore Red Ruffles with Myrtle in her hair while Sapphires and Topaz gleamed on her fingers. Desperate she borrowed Alma's Blue hat and an Alice Blue Gown from Frieda. All dressed up she played an Enchantress and won her Blue Treasure back . . .

"AFRICAN VIOLETS"

for

Beginners and Collectors

Send for my free illustrated catalog.

MRS. JENNIE SPOUTZ

13310 State Fair,

Dept. 10

Detroit 5, Michigan

DID YOU EVER TAME A WILDING?

Lotta Valor

If so, you learned that a Wilding isn't so easily tamed as one might think. My first experience with them was quite a few years ago when we bought our camp. Quite a patch of ground was so thickly carpeted with pine needles that no growth was visible. I raked and raked until I came down to earth. On this patch I wanted some of our Natives. The words Natural Habitat were unknown to me. Fortunately, many of my early transplantings were acid soil lovers and they lived in spite of me.

As time went on and the Boston Flower Shows featured the Wildings, I began to read all I could lay my hands on. Then I began to cater exclusively to acid soil lovers and herald with delight, many times, one solitary bloom. I didn't have a spectacular arrayment for many a visitor, and sometimes I think I was believed to be a little "hipped" when I thrilled at one solitary yellow lady's slipper or one wee Mayflower blossom, when our woods are full of them. One friend said, "Why such a time over that one Mayflower when Bear Hill is covered with them." Why explain? — she wouldn't have understood. I knew what I had done and was content.

The War-age and grandchildren curbed my activities there, so now the plot just naturally grows without my help. I don't think it means much to the casual observer, except that it is rather pretty, but I know the rhododendron and mountain laurel were thrown away as dead by a local "5 and 10". My Shortia Galacifolia, that sweet little orphan from the Carolinas, last year had more blossoms than a plant specifically mentioned as a success by Boston's Horticulture Magazine. My galax was beautiful at Christmas time, and I used a lot of it for flower arrangements. The Trilliums, wee pine trees and "what lovely ferns—" all these and many more, are perfectly happy because I fussed and gave them what they wanted.

Then-what house plant could give me the challenge that the Wildings do? You have guessed it. The Saintpaulias. Like my Wildings - they sulk for their native

habitat. I don't get impatient, for I waited ten years for the above mentioned rhododendron to blossom. They just won't sprout overnight! I am not so interested in the matured plants grown by someone else, unless I know what I can do myself.

I was delighted to learn of The Violet Magazine, for one learns so much from the experience of others, and everyone is so friendly.

I have six very good plants that I raised last year from leaves. Someone called these Australian violets, but I never have heard that name elsewhere. The parent plant had very shiny heavily veined leaves and very large purple blooms from hers, but, although my own look fine, - - "nary" a bloom as yet. No wonder they intrigue!

I have about fifty leaves in the "chicken feeders" about three months old and not a leaflet in sight, but they look very healthy so I think some fine morning I will get a surprise. Where there is Life, there is hope! I am looking forward to the day when I can say - "Behold-these are all my own children."

I am having a set of shelves put in an Eastern-Northern Bay window, and I know that now and then I am going to fail for some new matured blossoming specimen so - - - I can start more leaves.

Please don't tell anyone, but I am thinking strongly of trying Seeds now that I have the kind friends in the Magazine to guide me.

Perhaps some day I can add to my name "A Nomenclator of the Saintpaulia" - - - that will be the day - - - not quite yet but what a lot I have to look forward to!

I am using a pen name which I have used facetiously over the years when some occasion called for it, and I feel it to be most fitting in this case.

"A HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS"

By Mary Margaret Odum

"A Handbook for African Violet Growers" gives complete growing instructions, descriptions, etc., plus the Fischer color chart. Send \$1.50 for your copy today.

African Violet Stationery—Designs of African violets, Pigeons, and Robins.

50 sheets for \$1.00

Mrs. W. H. Odum

Dewitt, Iowa

"AFRICAN VIOLET STILL QUEEN OF INDOOR PLANTS"

Rose W. Kinzer

The African Violet Magazine Vol. 1 No. 4 has a very fine article on the growth and propagation of violets. However, there in one section called 'A Short Life Span' which I must discuss further. What does the author do with her violets when they are over three years old? Throw them away? What an end for a 'thing of beauty'!

I have several plants well over three years old. When the under leaves have fallen off and the bare stem protrudes from the ground about an inch, I remove the plant from the pot, loosen the roots and put in fresh dirt, well fertilized. I then pick off more of the lower leaves until I have once more a medium sized plant. I wet the soil in the pot well and plant the violet deep in the dirt so that it is up around the lower leaves. This plant is kept in the shade for two or three days and then placed in the window the same as the rest. Each time I have treated an old 'grandfather' in this way, I have been rewarded by good growth and many more blossoms.

An acquaintance of mine says that she takes a sharp knife and cuts her violets in two, right through the crown, when they

get too old and big for their pots. Thus she has two plants for every one before. I have never tried this operation myself, but some day when I have a large plant and small ones of the same variety coming on, I shall do so. All I can say is, this acquaintance has lovely violets, large plants and full of bloom.

Another friend said her husband gave her a "Blue Boy" years ago, that bloomed constantly and grew very large, until at the ripe old age of fifteen years finally got something wrong with it and gave up the ghost. Her care consisted of watering, feeding and replanting when necessary.

I am only a housewife who grows African Violets because I love to grow things. Their beauty and prolific blossoming give me untold enjoyment. I propagate from leaf cuttings, and while I am fond of the little new plants and love to watch them grow and develop and finally blossom, my old plants are like old friends, who have responded happily to my care and given me hours and days of lovely color, and are not to be discarded lightly.

THROW ANOTHER LOG ON THE FIRE

Louise Smouse

Let us go into the basic elements of plant nutrition and determine what a balanced diet should be, in raising better blooming, stronger African Violets.

There are several elements essential to plant life. Some are readily available in sufficient quantity in a good soil. Others need to be supplied.

The essential elements are calcium, phosphorous, iron, baron, sulphur, manganese, nitrogen, magnesium and potassium or potash.

Of these, potash, obtainable from wood ashes, used at the rate of a 5 inch pot to a bushel of soil, should be applied. Potash lends resistance to disease and generally improves both foliage and bloom. Throw another log on the fire and save the ashes. Also the charcoal will help keep soil sweet.

Ammonium sulphate available at your druggist and used one tablespoon to a gallon of water, is a good source of nitrogen which should also be supplied. Nitrogen is the greatest single booster of plant growth

and supplied as directed, stunted growth and yellowing leaves will often respond in just a week's time.

Superphosphate is an excellent source of phosphorous needed to stimulate root growth, and bring a plant quickly to bloom. You may prefer to simply use a teaspoon of 5-10-5 fertilizer to each 4 inch pot of soil.

Food should be given when a plant has a good growing start, and is making bud, but not in dull, damp weather. Don't over feed!

We have discussed feeding. We presume it is feeding of a healthy plant. To make sure we aren't feeding a diseased or nematode infected saintpaulia, let us use only sterilized soil for potting. Baking has been suggested or you may use formaldehyde dust which is sold under a trade name. The manufacturer will tell you how to properly use it.

Then again we can not help wondering if an African violet would not do as well in spite of our fussing . . .

MAKE MINE WICK-FED!!!

Daisy Jones

At our 1949 Memphis African Violet Show we had one table devoted exclusively to the culture of African Violets using the wick-fed pots. So many people were interested in the method, I would like to give you some of the details necessary for successfully growing our African Violets in this way and tell you its advantages.

There are many nurseries and florists who supply wick-fed pots in pastel shades at very reasonable prices; they are made of easily cleaned plastic, spun glass wicks which feed water and plant food from reservoir. They are self-watering, sub-irrigating pots. Porcelain wick-fed pots in pastel shades can also be secured and the same fine results obtained but the wick is made of porous clay instead of spun glass. Using the wick-fed method we do not have to water our violets as often; they grow just as well, make good roots, excellent foliage, beautiful blossoms and since there is lower humidity the danger of attack by fungus is reduced. Leaves do not rot when they touch rim of the pot since the chemical salts do not accumulate so readily.

Different aggregates which have been used successfully are sand, gravel, cinders, granite chips, vermiculite, and best of all aggregates is pumice; it is light, porous; rooted plants when transplanted to pumice continue growth without set-back just as though they had been treated with Vitamin B-1.

There are many chemical solutions and excellent plant foods on the market such as Hyponex, Plantabbs, Spessard's Hydro-

ponic Food, Mineral Maid, Thompson's Vitamin B-1, etc. Using these plant foods properly with our wick-fed pots we can expect healthier plants, bigger flowers, more rapid growth and larger growth in plants.

I have just been by to see Mrs. C. R. Gilley, one of our Club members, who was in charge of the African Violet Chemical Table at our Show. Oh, what a beautiful collection of violets she has; all of them in wick-fed pots. Can you imagine anything more beautiful than a White Ruffles in a 7 inch solid turquoise blue wick-fed pot; a large Blue Bird in a Canary Yellow wick-fed pot or a lovely Blue Girl (pat.) in a yellow four inch pot? Mrs. Gilley grows some of her plants in nothing but vermiculite, then again she grows some in rich sandy loam with equally good results.

My next stop finds me talking with Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hembre. Mr. Hembre is a chemist, so naturally he prefers to grow African violets in sand using chemical solutions and wick-fed pots exclusively. He has been using this type pot for approximately nine years—he has about 25 beautiful violets in five and seven inch wick-feds.

My own personal experience is that I find the Wick-Fed method far superior to using the "Old Fashioned" clay pots. They are more modern and up-to-date, wonderful for glass window shelves . . . so clean . . . no worries about over-watering and I could go on and on singing praises about Wick-Feds. Is there any wonder why I say, MAKE MINE WICK-FED.

ATTENTION CLUBS

The 1950 AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY CONVENTION will be held on May 12 and 13 at the Bellevue Stratford in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. We are extending a cordial invitation to all Local African Violet clubs to take an active part in the convention. Your club is invited to display plants and year books. Remember the popularity of your club will increase extensively if it takes part in our program.

If you belong to a local African Violet club, have your president or secretary contact me and give me the following information as soon as possible;

1. Names and addresses of officers.
2. Number of membership in your group.

3. Number of National membership in your club.
4. Do you desire space set aside for your club plant display; remember the space is limited.
5. Will you enter your club year book?

Have your local club help make the 1950 Convention in the Quaker City the greatest success in the history of the African Violet Society of America.

Mrs. R. J. Schadewald, Chairman
7 Lexington Ave.,
Havertown, Pa.

FROM DECEMBER UNTIL MAY

Alice Benet

Last December when my Blue Boy looked worn and weary after eight months of steady blooming, I turned it out of its pot to wash the roots and repot it. I found part of the roots rotted away. Instead of repotting, I pinched out the center of the crown and placed it in a jar of water to root, as one does a leaf.

After a few weeks I noticed a nice spread of roots, so the little plant was moved to a larger bottle containing Hyponex water (one-fourth teaspoon to one quart water). The plant prospered. As the leaves grew and the roots spread the plant was moved from time to time, and now the roots fill a pint Mason jar.

Once each week the roots are washed in clear water, the jar scrubbed and refilled with fresh Hyponex solution. Add a small piece of charcoal to keep the water sweet, and replace the plant.

This rejuvenated Blue Boy now measures $7\frac{1}{2}$ " across and is attractively bedecked in a collar of aluminum foil for support.

When my family asked, "How long do you expect to nurse that baby?" I respond-



ed with my own question, "I wonder if it will bloom?" To my joy and surprise, it did, and in May I took the picture.

(Editor's Note: She didn't love her Blue Boy in December as she did in May.)

DO YOU KNOW

Ruth Taber and Emma Lewis

That to promote winter blooming it is well to keep on the dry side in summer?

That a leaf from a pink variety may sport either a white or blue flowering plant?

That you can give your plant a beneficial hair cut?

That a little soot worked in the top of the soil will darken leaves and deepen color of blossoms?

That an eastern exposure is considered the best?

That 60° to 75° is considered the best temperature?

That chilling is likely to cause crown rot?

That charcoal made from hardwood (1 cupful to a gallon of soil) helps to prevent crown rot?

Rain water is best for watering or propagating? Tap water may be drawn the night before and poured off carefully.

That a damaged or broken leaf will still produce plants?

That if the petioles of your plants are too long they are probably not getting enough light? Or they may be too wet?

That too much fertilizer is as bad as not enough?

That gas, dry air or too acid soil will cause buds to drop? Also too heavily fertilized soil?

That $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. fermate to a pint of warm water with a little soap added as a spreader will prevent mold? Do not use detergents . . . they are too strong.

That if your plant has stem rot remove all lower leaves, and paint the crown with straight fermate?

That leaf rot may be overcome by painting the brown spots with straight fermate?

That mealy bugs should be removed with alcohol swabs? Badly infested plants should be discarded.

TRIALS AND EXPERIENCES WITH A SMALL GREENHOUSE

Mrs. T. C. Bee

A small greenhouse can have many problems. Our first one had to do with adapting a greenhouse originally intended for the raising of sun loving plants, to the housing and propagation of about 2000 African violets. The first fault to be counteracted was its location on the south side of the house. As it could not be moved, it had to be shaded.

The claim that Saintpaulias require plenty of light to bloom abundantly is an actuality. Direct sunlight, at least too much of it, can be quite detrimental. Bleached leaves are only a part of the results of over-exposure for, under this condition, they do not develop to their full, and oftentimes, graceful naturalness; they remain too compact with foreshortened petioles. This compactness prevents proper air circulation through the foliage, or evaporation from the soil, which, in time, may lead to crown rot, unless the potting mixture is very gritty permitting rapid drainage. To offset the effects of too much sunlight, the outside of the greenhouse was first painted white and the inside lined throughout with white cloth. With this procedure one of our trials had been met and passed.

Among the plants originally raised in the greenhouse were five African violets and at that time they posed no obstacle as they could be shaded by the other plants. The arrival of winter brought its problem. As we were not located near a natural gas main, propane or tank gas was installed for heating. This heat is fine when everything goes right, but it is also expensive. It did not go right here, for shortly after the Holidays the temperature went down to 10 degrees above zero for three nights. On the fourth night the turning on of the gas from the diningroom brought no results. Something was definitely wrong. From the window I can see into the greenhouse and the thermometer read 31 degrees. The plants looked frozen. An old wood stove was carted in from the back porch and fuel from the woodpile in the yard, and we began to build a roaring fire. The stove was set up in the dining room and the communicating window to the greenhouse thrown open in an effort to fight the cold there. After cooking breakfast on the wood burner, and with the sun coming up pretty and bright, I went into the greenhouse with a sick heart. Plants were frozen, but only in spots, probably due to the fact that all were on the dry side. Three of the violets survived and in thirty days you would not have known that they had been subjected to cold, as they had recovered. Our downfall had been a drop of water that had collected and frozen in the feed-line. Since that time we have had no trouble of like nature, but when the temperature falls I still sleep with one eye open. Last year when there was such an acute shortage of gas, I spent two days out there in an effort to keep warm.

Later, this heating installation brought another problem, and near calamity, for a shortage of copper pipe necessitated the use of one made of aluminum. Corrosion and a leak! - to those familiar with the damages of gas, I need not go any further but, for the unenlightened, I can definitely speak of its results. Leaves become thickened and curled and can, overnight, turn juicily brown and dead. Need I describe my feelings as I removed leaves by the hundreds? Also for those not initiated into the realm of gas damage, or familiar with the true signs of cyclamen mite, they might be confused. I should like to warn against hasty decisions that gas affected plants are hosts to the dreaded mite.

Another problem to be met was that of watering. As afore-mentioned, the house was not built originally for African violet culture so no provision was made for benches constructed so that the plants could be watered from the bottom. We now have to do it from the top. Violets can be watered in this manner safely, if precautions are taken. We do it early in the morning before the sun gets around so that the foliage can dry, thus preventing "sun-spot" or leaf burn. Watering at night causes condensation on the plants with the lowering temperature and can result in "black spot", or crown rot; and, in extremes, frosting of the plants.

Chances of insect infestation in a greenhouse are more numerous than in a home collection, so a definite spraying program must be initiated. A good insecticide should be used but even that should be varied occasionally with another preparation to prevent the insects from building up an immunity to one spray. Sodium selenate will control mites but it does nothing to mealy bug. Volck and Black Leaf 40 can be used in the latter case. It should be remembered that Volck is an oil spray and should not be used too often or it may be harmful to the plants. Volck or Black Leaf 40 can be used at the rate of one teaspoon to the gallon of warm water - giving the plants a good bath and a soft brushing to remove the insect eggs.

Ventilation in a greenhouse cannot be over-emphasized. In winter, when the days are damp and sunshine has little power, ventilation must be assured. The heater should be turned up, or the thermostat set to insure an even temperature of about 65 degrees but keep some of the ventilators open at least during part of the day. In summer when the temperature runs from 75 to 90 degrees all the ventilators should be open and daily or twice daily sprinkling of the floors will help in providing proper humidity and lowering of the temperature. On the other hand, African violets will not tolerate direct drafts so ventilators should be screened with loosely woven cloth and, if the door is kept open it too should be protected with a cloth screen.

(Continued on bottom next Page)

REPOTTING TO ELIMINATE PESTS

Clara Soto

Several months ago, I discovered that there were little worms, or wormlike bugs in the soil of fifteen African Violet plants which I had bought. It is hard to know whether to call them worms or bugs, for they have characteristics of both.

They are about one-eighth inch long and are white. They live inside the soil, but when the plants are watered from the top, the bugs come to the top of the water. They seem to glide on top of the water in the saucer when watering from the bottom. When I tried to catch them with my fingers, they seemed to jump and usually succeeded in getting away. In an old plant, the bugs or worms were so old and big and fat, they were almost gray, and about one-fourth inch long.

Some of these plants died. The leaves curled back so the midrib did not show at all. Soon the leaves grew limp, became transparent and died.

Since repotting old plants injures the roots, I tried to find a way to kill these pests in the soil without removing the violets, and was successful. I had heard of sodium selenate, but after reading more about it, decided not to try it, - - at least until I learned more about it.

Finally, last Spring, I discovered that, besides the bugs in the soil, my plants had three different varieties of bugs on the leaves and stems, and also a very small beetle-like bug running around on the fungus growth on the outside of the pot.

I decided to try repotting. Here is the method used:

I took the plant out of the pot, putting the clump of soil and roots into a bowl of water, thereby loosing the soil from around the roots, and dipping the plant up and down until all soil was removed.

I then made a solution of one quart of water to one-fourth teaspoon of "Ever-

green Spray" in another bowl. I dipped the entire plant, roots, leaves and all, into this solution, dipping it up and down three or four times to make sure all pests were killed.

Next, I held the plant under the faucet and sprayed it with warm water to wash off the "Evergreen Solution".

Now, the plants were ready to be planted in soil which had been sterilized by baking for thirty minutes in a 150° oven. I believe it should not be baked longer or at a higher temperature, in order to keep the soil "alive". The pots used were sterilized by letting them stand in scalding water.

I would like to say that I put some soil into the pot, wet it, made a hole in the soil big enough and deep enough to hold the roots (spread out), holding the plant with one hand while putting in dry soil to fill the pot, tapping the pot several times so the dry soil would be sure to envelope the roots. If any air pockets are left around the roots, the roots and soil may get moldy, cause sour soil, and eventually kill the plants.

This is a long and tedious method, but was very successful. None of the pests have returned. All the plants lived, and while it took six months to a year for some of them to resume normal growth and bloom, it was well worth the trouble and the time to have my African Violets again in such good condition.

GREENHOUSE EXPERIENCE Cont.

Every greenhouse owner can tell you one thing - no matter how large the house, it will not for long remain adequate for the avid Saintpaulia collector or grower. My advice, in this event, is to do as we have - build shelves every place that will hold them.

BACK ISSUES OF MAGAZINE

Reprints of Volume 1, Numbers 2, 3 and 4 are now available in limited numbers—cost 50c each post paid. Orders will be mailed after January 1st.

Not all back issues of Volume 2 are now in print. Requests for these must be made on penny post card and you will be notified which ones are available.

Editor.

AUTOMATIC WATERING FOR YOUR AFRICAN VIOLETS

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SOIL RECIPES FROM THE PACIFIC COASTAL REGION

Clarissa Harris

RECIPE NUMBER 1.

EQUAL PARTS OF: Garden Soil, Sand, Leafmold (redwood), Peat Moss, Steer Fertilizer.

This is sifted thru a screen. I then add 1 cup of charcoal, broken in tiny pieces the size of a pea, to one gallon of soil mixture.

I grow my violets on shelves in a glassed-in front porch, which is about 10 feet square.

Due to the fact that we live on a 150 foot cliff directly above the ocean, I had many difficulties trying to control the reflected light from the ocean. It was so terrifically strong that it turned some of the leaves black and others yellow with ugly black veins.

Instead of growing up, they all turned down and hugged the pots. They were a mess. I was finally able to correct this situation by installing aluminum venetian blinds on the west windows; redwood slats on the south windows with plastic and marquisette curtains, and plastic and marquisette curtains in the east windows. It took months of experimenting to finally control the light.

I start all my leaves in water and place them in brown bottles in a warm light location. I am careful to use water which has stood 24 hours so that all chlorine and water purifiers have been released. I find that this method produces plants faster for me than any other way I have tried.

GENEVIEVE MARSH . . .

a member of the Los Angeles Society.

RECIPE NUMBER 2.

POTTING SOIL FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS:

- 4 cups of Leaf Mold
- 4 cups of Garden Soil
- 2 cups of Rotted Manure
- 2 cups of Vermiculite
- 1 cup Nitro-Humas
- 1 cup of Charcoal
- ¼ cup of Bone Meal

Sift garden soil. Sterilize for one hour in the oven at 200 degrees. Mix all ingredients together. Moisten well and your soil is ready for use.

DORICE TRIGG . . .

a member of the Los Angeles Society.

RECIPE NUMBER 3.

Mrs. R. E. Ross of Newport Beach, Calif., is a strong advocate of Georgia Peat. She has a marvelous success with the following soil mixture.

To equal parts of Georgia Peat and Leaf Mold she adds a small quantity of loam and sand.

She starts her leaf cuttings in Georgia Peat and Leaf Mold. Mrs. Ross advises that she always waters with warm water and feeds well established plants every 10 days with Plantabbs. To a 6 inch pot one Plantabb is used by pressing it into the soil at the edge of the pot. She never allows the plants to dry out, but keeps them evenly moist at all times. Her methods certainly produce results for her plants are large and profusely in bloom, and the blossoms hold on for a very long time, thereby producing a very beautiful display of flowers. She keeps her plants clean by spraying with Pysect, says it is a sure cure for Mealy Bug.

RECIPE NUMBER 4.

Unit of measure and variance of ingredients are the complicating factors in giving a recipe for a potting mixture. In order to simplify the job one coffee can equals 5% and 20 coffee cans the whole or 100%.

- Leaf Mold (9 cans) 45%
- Black Loam (5 cans) 25%
- Sharp Sand (2 cans) 10%
- Vermiculite (Coarse) (3 cans) 15%
- Bonemeal (½ can) 2½%
- Charcoal (½ can) 2½%

The Leaf Mold needs description as it is not a commercial grade. A friend brings it to me from under the Redwoods of Northern California. I use it without screening even though it carries unbroken Redwood cones and leaves. The content of woods soil is high for leaf mold.

Mix the first three ingredients and sterilize by baking or fumigation, add the remaining parts to complete mixture.

HARVEY COX . . .

a successful grower of African Violets of Long Beach, Calif. and a member of the Society.

RECIPE NUMBER 5.

I am very much of a beginner in African violet culture. Not quite two years ago a neighbor gave me a few leaves. She had a lovely big plant of Blue Boy that was always in bloom, and I just couldn't keep my eyes off it whenever I was in her house. She could root leaves in water but could never start a plant. Another neighbor would start them for her and get lovely plants, but no flowers. Well, human nature being what it is I decided to do my best.

I placed my leaves in water and then started out to find what should be done from there on. Very few people I met knew anything about violets and with those that did—no two had the same answer. I

finally found Helen Van Pelt Wilson's pamphlet, published in 1945 and that I have followed closely ever since.

My husband said my leaves never would grow—I looked at them too much. I did, many times a day, and it was a very important day when finally the little leaves popped up out of the soil. Now my original Blue Boys are almost always in bloom.

After my leaves are rooted, I set them out in a 2½ or 3 inch pot, that has been dipped in paraffin. Line Sphagnum moss in the bottom and a little way up the sides. Use a mixture of 1/3 sand (Builders or coarse); 1/3 soil; 1/3 leaf mold. Keep pots fairly wet at first, and gradually lessen until finally soil is just moist.

I use about ½ pellet of Vigoro to a 4 inch pot every couple of months, for the older plants. This has seemingly given them all they need. Am going to try out Hyponex soon.

At first I used Adhesive tape to mark my pots. Now I use a Masking tape (used in papering and painting), it is a little tougher and withstands water better.

I was perfectly satisfied with my Blue Boys for awhile, then I found Pink Beauty at a school sale. When I started out to look for other colors there my troubles began. Went to nursery after nursery—no luck. I finally did manage to get an Orchid Beauty and a Blushing Maiden direct from a grower, and was I thrilled!

Now I have 21 varieties - mostly young plantlets, several of which are full of buds. Also some names unknown, and leaves in various stages.

I joined the National Society in January and enjoy the magazine so much. In February the Alhambra chapter was formed and I haven't missed a meeting even though a lot of planning etc., has to be done to get there and back. Not having anyone to leave my youngsters with, they've been to all but one of the meetings. Each of them has a plant and several leaves started. Judy, age 4, was just given as a birthday present, a plant named Judy. Maybe Mommie can rate a leaf after it gets a little bigger. Nothing like a family project, you know.

GLADYS ALLARD, Duarte, Calif.

RECIPE NUMBER 6.

Mrs. Viola Schilling, recently moved to Southern California from St. Louis, Mo.

"About my soil formula? It is still in the experimental process. It was some time before I was able to get sand, etc. out here. Never had much success with leaves forming baby plants in St. Louis. However I got a "bright" idea and my husband carried it out for me.

Using a large size "lug" box we cut out windows or openings in both the sides

(Cont. bottom next column)

MISS SAINTPAULIA

I'm just a little violet
That sits upon your stand,
I'm a happy little person tho-
Some things you well could mend.
I love to see you smile at me
And show me to your friends
I love their admiration
On such my life depends.
But oh, I could be happy
If my owner understood
The life I have been used to --
Light, soil and also food.
Now water, some folks wonder
If I like a lake of mud
Or if a dry, dry prairie
By me is understood.
No, not a dry, dry prairie
And not a lake of mud
I'm such a simple person
Extremes are not my mood.
My home was on the mountain
In crevices of stone
With trees to shade my colors
Till I began to roam.
Now here I am a captive
Not unhappy, as you see
For I fill your home with beauty
If you do take care of me.
Please, love me and remember
A place out of the sun,
None but tepid water
Beneath my feet must come.
And never let my top soil
Get wet or very damp
But just a little water
When dry or over-cramped,
My crown stands high and proud
Above a fingered stem
High up above the pot bed
Where leaves must never bend.
I am a hearty eater,
Perhaps you understand
But I bloom and bloom forever
And rest do not demand.
So feed me much of plant food,
And love me every day,
I'll live and be so happy
To do my part - always.

Harriett Reed Clemo

and ends of the box and covered these openings with "Vita-lite," as it is called, a sort of green plastic transparent cloth. I had seen it out here at hardware stores. We also made a lid frame and covered it.

It gives plenty of light, even temperature, humidity, easy to carry, a sort of miniature glasshouse at practically no expense. I had read about these made of glass but glass runs expensive, is breakable, and heavy (if you want to move the rooting leaves or baby plants in pots to a better light at times.)

One box has the lid hinged but we did not even do that with the second one. We painted the box white, both inside and outside, and this reflects more light and makes it more attractive."

REGISTRATION

Committee on Registrations
Boyce M. Edens, Chairman

Applications for the registration of twenty-one separate varieties of African violets were received and recorded during the period from June 1, 1949 to September 30, 1949, as follows:

BIG MIKE - - by Mrs. Irvin R. Furnish, Florence, Indiana, June 30, 1949.

BLUE BEAUTY - - by Mrs. Irvin R. Furnish, Florence, Indiana, June 30, 1949.

CUSTARD CUP - - by Mrs. Irvin R. Furnish, Florence, Indiana, June 30, 1949.

IONANTHA SUPREME - - by Mrs. Irvin R. Furnish, Florence, Indiana, June 30, 1949.

LADY SLIPPER - - by Mrs. Homer C. Foltz, P. O. Box 267, Lewistown, Penn., July 14, 1949.

LUANA - - by Mrs. Irvin R. Furnish, Florence, Indiana, June 30, 1949.

MARINE - - by Mrs. C. H. Harris, 757 Athens Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif., August 10, 1949.

ORCHID EYES - - by George P. McFarland, 515 S. Walnut St., West Chester, Penn., July 19, 1949.

OROS WHITE GIRL - - by Mrs. Frank Oros, Route 1, Wadsworth, Ohio, August 26 1949.

RIPPLING BLUE - - by Mrs. John C. Doell, 890 Klem Road, Webster, New York, September 15, 1949.

TUNIA'S CLEVELAND INDIAN - - by Mrs. Frank Pochurek, 14225 McCracken Rd., Garfield Heights, Ohio, August 1, 1949.

BLUE ANGEL - - by Mrs. Irvin R. Furnish, Florence, Indiana, June 30, 1949.

BLUE SNOW - - by Mrs. Homer C. Foltz, P. O. Box 267, Lewistown, Penn., July 14, 1949.

DARK EYES - - by Mrs. Irvin R. Furnish, Florence, Indiana, June 30, 1949.

LADY CATHERINE - - by Mrs. Velma Davis, 306 S. Locust, Jefferson, Iowa, July 20, 1949.

LOVE BIRDS - - by Mrs. Homer C. Foltz, P. O. Box 267, Lewistown, Penn., July 23, 1949.

McFARLAND'S BLUE WARRIOR - - by George P. McFarland, 515 S. Walnut St., West Chester, Penn., July 19, 1949.

MOONGLOW - - by Mrs. Homer C. Foltz, P. O. Box 267, Lewistown, Penn., July 16, 1949.

OROS DUBONNET - - by Mrs. Frank Oros, Route 1, Wadsworth, Ohio, August 26, 1949.

PRINCESS LEILA - - by Mrs. Velma Davis, 306 S. Locust, Jefferson, Iowa, July 20, 1949.

SKY BLUE SUPREME - - by Mrs. Irvin R. Furnish, Florence, Indiana, June 30, 1949.

These 21 varieties, most of which are of recent origin and may, therefore, be considered new ones, are hereby published in accordance with Section 20 of our Code Of Rules For Nomenclature And Registration, which provides:

"The Committee on Registration will publish all applications for registration in the African Violet Magazine, the official organ of African Violet Society of America, Inc., with notice that objections to be effective must be filed with the Chairman of Committee on Registrations within six weeks of such publication. If no objection is made, registration may then become permanent and accordingly so published in a subsequent issue of the African Violet Magazine. In the event of objection to registration, decision will rest with the Executive Board of the Society".

Anyone who knows a sound reason why any one of the foregoing varieties of African violets ought not to be registered with the Society by the name indicated, or for other reasons, should immediately file his or her objection to registration with the Committee. All such objections must be adequately detailed in a letter addressed to the Chairman at 2694 Lenox Road N. E., Atlanta 5, Georgia.

An expression of sincere appreciation is due those who have made use of our Service in the registration of these twenty-one varieties. They have already been assured that the variety names under which their originations may be finally recorded as registered, cannot be registered with the Society in the meantime by anyone else. This is a form of protection against name infringement that registration provides.

The Committee has in processes of consideration uncompleted applications for the registration of some two dozen other new varieties. Just as rapidly as these applications are completed, publication of them will be made in an appropriate future issue of the Magazine.

We do not anticipate any appreciable problems arising in the future that will prevent the registration of most new varieties soon after they are tested and introduced either by amateur or commercial growers. But we are concerned, in a very real way, regarding registration of the older varieties and the species. Particularly are we concerned with the early registration of different varieties, both the seedlings and sports, that were originated prior to June 30, 1948. These valuable older varieties are the real pace makers and most certainly must be recorded in our registration records along with the newer varieties. The true names and description of these older varieties are required to complete our records.

(Continued on next Page)



The Homing Pigeon

(By action of the Board of Directors, new members joining the Homing Pigeon after July 31, 1949, must be members of the National Society.)

Dear Pigeon Members:

How pleasant to be serving as your temporary Directress!

My attention has been called by a number of Directors, to the failure of some to send their courtesy cards. Please, please send your courtesy cards each round. It will be much appreciated, and will help keep our Pigeons safer in their flight from one to the other.

Mrs. James Cooper, Excelsior Springs, Mo., says, "In order to avoid the last minute rush, why not do as one or two of the members in our unit, who write part of their letter, long before the Pigeon is at their door. In this way many of the interesting happenings are not forgotten."

Unit No. 40 reports the following listing of plants most similar . . .
Double Orchid Beauty, Regal Wine, Fischers' Double Dark Lavender and Fischers' Masterpiece.

Purple Prince and Merkles' Red Purple.
Neptune and Lady Marion. (not Fischers' My Lady Marion)

Red Amazon and duPont Tu-tone.

Blue Eyes and Blue Skies.

Gray Lady, Tinted Lady and Sky Blue.

Unit No. 11 also finds similarity in these . . .

Plum Satin and Mauve.

Lancaster Red, Red Spoon and Droopy.

"I did not find Optox affected either the soil or the blooming of plants. I sprayed my collection once each week all summer. I believe my Amazons prefer indirect light. If they are in an East window they should be set on the right hand side, but if in

a West window they should be set on the left hand side. In this way they receive good light, but not direct sun," says Mrs. Duff Wilson.

Esther Schadewald contributes the following from the members of Unit No. 16.

Rain water or melted snow will root leaves quicker because it is soft water.

To kill Springtails water with 1 teaspoon Lysol to 1 quart warm water. Three waterings from the bottom usually suffices.

Army surplus stores sell bread trays 24x40 for from 50c to 95c.

Dampen soil with Hyponex solution before separating young plants from the mother leaf.

Dip new flower pot rims in melted paraffine to prevent stems of leaves from rotting.

Do not plant rooted leaves too deep. It takes too long for the crowns to reach the surface.

Suggestion from Louise Brewer . . . Put some leaves in water with Hy-Grow, and all of the little hairs on the stem will grow into roots.

To combat Mealy Bugs spray with a solution of warm water and rubbing alcohol . . . half water and half alcohol, advises Mrs. G. E. Rhodes.

Mabel Rodabaugh, Coshocton, Ohio, of Unit No. 53, contributes a nice poem I am sure you will enjoy.

Go, little Pigeon, on your flight,
Up above the town's bright light.
On to others spreading cheer,
Wing your way throughout the year.
Now I send you on your way,
But will watch again each day,
For your return with more good news,
Of this grand group's Saintpaulia views.

Thanks a million for your interesting ideas. Do sign each individual name with the contributions so that we may hear from as many of our Pigeon Members as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Myrtle Radtke (Conductress)

REGISTRATION Cont.

Recognizing that the majority of the older varieties were originated by commercial growers, a special invitation has been sent to fifty of the principal commercial growers and dealers throughout the Country to register, free of registration fee cost, all the different varieties registered by them and offered for sale in a published list or catalog on or before June 30, 1948. This invitation is hereby extended to every individual amateur grower. In this connection, it should be emphasized that our registration service is established both for members and non-members of the Society. A sufficient supply of Registration forms can be secured from the Chairman of the Committee on Registration by anyone who desires to register either a new or old variety with the Society.

PROPAGATING AFRICAN VIOLETS

Estelle R. Bentley

Not all of us have the facilities or the equipment described in the flower magazines concerning the propagation of violets or other house plants. Don't be frightened and discouraged. You can make some equipment of your own and be able to raise enough for yourself, or if very ambitious, sell a few or give them away to your friends.

I had a Putnam heater which we purchased from a mail order house and which was used for heating water for chickens. I decided to try it out on violets. Now the chickens are drinking cold water! This heater is 8½ inches in diameter and burns kerosene. It will run about a month on a quart of oil.

On this, I placed a few cleats of wood, so it would not become too warm. You can regulate it by turning the wick up or down. On this, I placed an aluminum roaster pan. Of course, you could use the entire pan for rooting cuttings, but I used a bread pan, with nail holes in the bottom for drainage.

For rooting cuttings, I used a sharp sand and vermiculite, and had very good success with this. When potting the little plants I used vermiculite, peat moss, sand and rich soil. The extra space in the roaster pan was used to set the young plants in. A little bottom heat gives them a great "send-off".

If you have electricity you could easily make yourself one by placing a 15 watt bulb in any container which is fireproof, plug in with an extension cord and use the same method. You should have some holes in the side for circulation of air.

African violets seem to be slow growing, and I decided if the little plants had bottom heat they would grow much faster. My husband made a bench of scraps of lumber picked up around the place. It consists of a box about 20 inches square on the inside and 4 inches deep, the bottom of galvanized sheeting, but I should prefer

aluminum. The top is open, of course. Under this is placed another box of the same size, except it is 6 inches deep, lined with asbestos. There should be an air space in each corner. We do this by placing a strip of insulating felt, leaving about an inch in each corner. Place your exposed wiring sockets 6½ inches in from each of the four corners. There should be a baffle to distribute the heat. This we arranged by placing a tin can over each of the 15 watt bulbs. Cut away part of the sides or punch many holes in the cans.

It should be wired in parallel so equal heat will be distributed to each bulb. If you do not understand this, ask your electrician. It will be easily understood by anyone having a knowledge of simple electric wiring. Bore a hole at some convenient place for the entrance of your electric cord.

We put this bench on legs about the height of a table. By putting nail holes in your metal sheet, you can use it for sowing seed and rooting cuttings, or by using an extra container such as the bread pan for this, you could use the extra space for setting in your young plants. I use mine for setting in the young plants, using about an inch of sand in the bottom of the box. This will distribute the heat evenly.

For transplanting violets, I use plastic flower pots which are bought at the 10¢ store. If you can't find these, get the plastic cups and drill a hole in the bottom. They make very lovely containers. Use this bottom heat for a couple of months or so and watch your plants "just hum".

This "propagator" should not cost you more than \$2.00 or \$3.00. You can use packing boxes for the lumber. And don't let anyone tell you African violets are hard to grow. At least, they are not hard to start. Of course, no plant will thrive and bloom without care. We need to study and know their special requirements.

Good luck to all lovers of the beautiful house plant, the African violet.

HELEN POCHUREK

14225 McCracken Road

Cleveland 5, Ohio

The newest varieties at all times, leaf cuttings and small plants.

The sensation of the Cincinnati show . . . Sailor Girl . . . also the new Lavender Girl, Redhead Girl, entirely different. Orchid Neptune, Neptune Princess, Blue Beauty, Merkel's Wax Blue, Winifred Merkel, Merkel's Giant Blue, Tunia's Prize Blue, Tunia's Big Boy, Kay's Quilted, Amazon Neptune, Violet Beauty, Red King at 50¢ each leaf or 7 for \$3.00. Orders over \$3.00 postpaid, less add 35¢. West of the Mississippi add 50¢. For special delivery add 25¢ to order.

by Esther E. Schadewald

If you have the desire to form an African Violet Club in your community the following suggestions may prove helpful:

1st Meeting: Have your friends who are interested in growing African Violets meet at your home for the purpose of forming a club. Friends who are members of other Garden Clubs can be especially helpful in planning the future programs for your club.

2nd Meeting: Appoint temporary officers to hold office for a term of six months. The officers should preferably be members of The African Violet Society of America. The temporary officers should be President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Have the officers agree on a Board Meeting date before the next meeting to decide on dues. The program for this meeting might be a "Stump the Experts" program. Your more experienced growers could be asked to act as "Experts" to answer the questions asked by other members.

After six months' time the President should appoint a nominating committee. All nominees should have been contacted prior to meeting date, when they name their candidates. Additional nominees may be named from the floor at the meeting. Members may elect their new officers at this meeting. They should include a Program Chairman, Hospitality Chairman, Membership Chairman, Librarian and Historian, Publicity and Flower Show Chairman.

Be sure to insist on your members growing 'known' varieties only, especially those varieties which have been sanctioned by the National Society. Exception to this rule is allowed if new varieties are grown from seed. Remember that if your members are allowed to call their plant Betty or Joan or Mrs. Smith, they are hindering the African Violet Society of America by duplicating varieties. Have them be sure that their plant is a new variety before giving it a new name.

The African Violet Society allows your club to retain fifty cents on each National membership. Have your treasurer send the Two Dollar and fifty cent balance with application for membership to Mr. Warren Gottshall, P. O. Box 901, Alexandria, Virginia. Additional club fees may be had by charging guests a twenty-five cent attendance fee. A Plant auction is lots of fun and will bring additional funds into your club.

It is not necessary to draw up By-Laws for the first six months period at least, because changes will be needed to meet your club requirements. When your new President takes office she may appoint a committee to draw up By-Laws for your club.

Your future club programs may include leaf or plant exchanges, a tour of Commercial Hothouses growing African Violets. Violet questionnaires to be filled in by members, talks by members on disease control or cross-pollination with charts. "Tips for Violet Care" is an interesting subject and will make good scrap book methods of propagating violets. To give a demonstration by chart or display always makes a talk more interesting. Other programs could include a Christmas party, an arrangement for a table setting, a program on judging for shows or a talk on soil needs. An exchange of speakers among clubs could be arranged if transportation is provided for the speaker.

Programs are not absolutely necessary during July and August; if meetings are held during the vacation months they should be in the form of a picnic.

When your club is one year old you are ready for your first Violet Show. Your Show Chairman will pick her own aides which will include a Co-Chairman, Staging Chairman, Placement Chairman, Registration Chairman, Booth Chairman, Hospitality Chairman, Publicity Chairman and Entry Chairman.

The proceeds from your booth should defray the expenses of your show, if plants and plant needs are donated by your members. Register your plants in advance of your show so that your Placement Chairman will have some idea of the amount of space needed for the plants. Your Entry Chairman can check your entries on the date of entry. It is not essential to give prizes other than ribbons at your show. A sure way to cause no hard feelings is not to give prizes or ribbons at your annual show, but rather give them at the monthly meetings to create friendly competition. Inexpensive prizes such as Plant foods may be given for the Quizz Contest.

African Violet Seeds

Mixed seed from many crosses of many varieties. Package of approx. 400 seeds \$1.00. Planting instructions with seed.

Special and Extra Special crosses \$2.00 and \$3.00 a package. If interested send stamp for list.

FRIENDLY GARDENS

New Bedford, Pa.

RESEARCH REVEALS RODENT AS VIOLETS VILE VIOLATOR

By Roelif Loveland

Consider the strange case of the exploding African violet!

It was a nice, quiet little African violet plant up to a couple of days ago. It sat in the sunroom minding its own business and thinking about whatever it is that violets consider when in a contemplative mood.

And then the darn thing started exploding!

Perhaps explode is the wrong word. At any rate, when we came into the room we could see where the soil had been tossed out of the pot onto the floor—and there was a deep hole in the pot where the dirt had been.

Obviously, in such a case one thinks of certain little furry animals to be seen anywhere. It could not have been Kilts, the Scottie, for he is far too fat and lazy and, besides, he would have knocked the potted plant over.

We swept up the soil and put it back into the pot and watered it down well—and the next morning we discovered that the same thing had happened again. It was time to do something.

Various explanations were given by our friends. Trying, most charitably, to stay away from the possibility of a mouse, they suggested that perhaps African violets developed a pocket of gas around the roots; that the growth of the roots forced out the soil. One friend even said that roots frequently would break a pot and you'd come downstairs to find both pot and earth scattered all over a room.

Helen Grant Wilson, Plain Dealer garden editor (Cleveland, Ohio), struck straight from the shoulder.

"I have had the same report from other people who had African violets," she said. "But I don't think it's the roots. I'm afraid (she lowered her voice just in case anybody should happen to be listening)—I'm afraid you have a mouse or maybe a chipmunk. To keep the African violet from exploding any more, I would suggest a nice little trap with a dainty piece of cheese."

But why should a mouse pick on an African violet? It did not make sense to me. I have never eaten an African violet, but I am sure it does not taste like cheese.

Still fighting against the unhappy thought of sharing one's home with a mouse, no matter how gentlemanly and tidy Mr. Mouse might be, we sought further opinion and got it from Helen Pochurek.

Mrs. P. listened patiently to the strange tale of the exploding violet.

"This curious manifestation," she said, "has happened to a lot of people who raise African violets. It has even happened to me. For some reason or other, a mouse just loves to nibble on the leaves of an African violet."

I still hate to believe it. But the mystery of the nonshrinking violet is becoming intolerable. Better the admitted fact of a dead mouse than a nervous breakdown. Dr. Watson, I shall buy a trap!

HOUSE PLANTS

African Violets, Ferns, Ivies, Begonias, Geraniums, Cacti and Succulents, Foliage Plants.

Fertilizer — Hyponex 7 oz. 50¢
1 lb. \$1.00

Other Fertilizers, Soils and other items to fill your needs.

N.N.O.R. 6 oz. \$1.00, 16 oz. \$2.15, Sprayer for insecticide throws hard penetrating spray, \$2.25.

If ordering above items separate, add 35¢ for shipping.

Send for fall listing

YOARS HOUSEPLANT
NURSERY

Route 1

Bunker Hill, Ind.

AFRICAN VIOLETS

New Double Orchid

New DuPonts

Several Supreme varieties

Wik-Fed pots

Potting Soil

Dixco Plant Food.

Send for free price list.

THE HARMON NURSERY
North St. Prospect, Ohio

HUMIDITY

Ethel and Pearl Fitzsimmons

Our violets which are of blooming age are located on a back porch which is glassed in and insulated, and has windows on the North and East. We keep the violets there all winter and leave the kitchen door open at all times except when we wish to increase the humidity.

When the furnace is going and the humidity is apt to be too low for the plants to bloom, we have a little gadget called the "Boilquick" which is placed in a bucket of water, and attached to the light socket. Soon the steam flies. The door between the kitchen and porch is kept closed until the humidity reaches above 75 degrees. We invested in a small instrument which records both temperature and humidity and

keep it on a shelf with the violets. We usually use the "Boilquick" twice a day.

Even this summer when the humidity was very high, the outdoor air did not produce the good results that our electrical device did.

We once heard a speaker say, "The ladies who have their violets in the kitchen have the best blooming plants because they get the humidity they love from the cooking steam." We know he was right. If the humidity is below 40 degrees saintpaulias will not bloom. Our experience has been that they like the humidity to be from about 50 degrees to 75 degrees.



Plant inspection time at the Fitzsimmons' home

AFRICAN VIOLETS FOR CHRISTMAS

Ruth Dahnke

With the Christmas holidays coming, perhaps a suggestion is timely for African Violets wrapped as gifts or to be sold to customers. Our Florist is generous in selling metallic paper in appropriate colors to decorate African Violets; perhaps yours will be. Cut a square of paper large enough to bring up around the pot and extend beyond. Turn some corners up, the others down. Wrap a corsage wire with the same paper, bend it and insert in the soil at the edge of the pot to form a handle. It makes a most attractive basket for African Violets. Warn everyone against picking the basket up by the handle; they invariably do. You will be surprised how many men and boys turn to African Violets for gifts at Christmas as well as Valentine Day and Easter. The idea can be repeated with a different variety many times. Of course you can expect telephone calls from the recipient as to the care of the plant, and it is always fun to hear from time to time how well the plant likes its new home.

This brings to mind our Kansas University Football player, next door. Last Christmas he went sliding across the lawn, struggling to keep his balance, but holding the African Violet in its basket well covered with tissue paper, high above his head. Feb. 13th, he repeated the idea with an African

AFRICAN VIOLETS "COMPLETE LINE FOR VIOLET CULTURE"

Fresh cut, labeled leaves.

ROOTED CUTTINGS - (your selection) from over 50 varieties.

PLANTS - Pot grown & shipped in pots, clean, healthy, Selenate treated, over 70 varieties. New low prices-expertly packed.

WIK-FED Pots; 6 pastel colors, Ivory, Pink, Yellow, Green, Lavender & Red. 4 inch size \$1.15 ea., 6 for \$6.00 Postpaid. **NEW**

EXTRA LARGE SIZE 5 inch, same colors as above, \$1.50 ea. Postpaid. Ideal for your specimens.

VERMICULITE - For rooting cuttings, starting seed, etc. 4 Qt. bag, complete instructions \$1.00 Postpaid.

AFRI-GRO - Potting soil for Violets, (now Soilene treated) for greater protection. Acclaimed by thousands of users. 3 lbs. \$1.00. (add .15 to each 3 lbs. for postage)

Insecticides, fertilizers, books, ornamental house plants and many other interesting items listed in our **NEW REVISED PRICE LIST** - Send for your copy **FREE**.

VIRGINIA LEE GARDENS
DEPT. A GREENSBORO, MD.

Violet for a Valentine. The next afternoon our little athlete called from school to say the coach wanted an African Violet fixed like Carl's for his wife. I knew his fraternity flowers were the red rose and the purple violet, so had Mentor Boy ready. To my surprise he didn't have to wait for his wife to notice it was the Sigma Phi Epsilon flower. One also graces the apartment of the house mother of the Sig Eps at Kansas University, and was on display at the house warming to show their new house. It is always nice to know your little plants are appreciated and you can add to the pleasure by knowing Club or Society flowers and colors. African Violets fortunately have quite a range in color, and it can be carried out in the color of the metallic paper you use. It may be well to keep a list of the varieties some of your friends have so that you may suggest new varieties when they are again to receive the always welcome gift.

AFRICAN VIOLETS A SPECIALTY

Send stamped addressed envelope
for list.

RAINS FLOWER GARDEN

Route 4, Box 259
Gainesville, Florida

We sell wholesale to the small grower, clay pots, labels, stakes, fertilizers, insecticides, etc.

MEARS GARDEN SALES

Route 3, Box 89, Anderson, Ind.

VIOLETS GROW in new, amazing Syco Bowls

Intensive research has developed the bowls acclaimed at recent AVSA convention. SYCO bowls cut down attention necessary for indoor plants and flowers; exclusive moisture control aids growth. Available in 2 colors and 14 shapes, \$1.00 to \$3.50. If your florist doesn't stock them write directly to:—

THE SYCOBOWLS CORP.

28 S. Wycombe Ave.
Lansdowne, Pa.

CLUB NEWS

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
1920 W. 3rd St.
Perry, Iowa.

SAN GABRIEL SOCIETY MEETING

Mrs. Ernest Mackey, president of the San Gabriel chapter of African Violet Society of America, Inc., had the privilege and pleasure of an interview over channel No. 2 Television on the Garden Chat program with Mr. J. J. Littlefield, well known Author, Radio and Television commentator. Several beautiful violet plants of Mrs. Mackey's were on display. Helpful hints on growing, watering and feeding, also the many pests and their control were given.

The San Gabriel Chapter has an opportunity table at each meeting where plants and rare leaves are sold for ways and means. At the September 22, 1949, meeting this chapter held a round table consisting of their members with Mrs. C. W. English, Pasadena, on soil preparation; Mrs. Chas. Chervenka, Monte Rey Park, on feeding; Mrs. Grace D. Hoag, San Gabriel, propagation; Mrs. H. F. Philips, Alhambra, on growing; Mrs. Fred P. George, Temple City, light, air, water, humidity; Mrs. Ernest Mackey on pests and their control; Mr. J. J. Littlefield acted as moderator. Mr. Littlefield, for the past 22 years, has been actively engaged in gardening in Southern California. He is a member of the San Gabriel chapter as well as many garden clubs throughout Southern California, and is familiar with garden problems of the home gardener. He said, "Gardening provides one of the most profitable and enjoyable avocations. No highly technical or elaborate preparation is required to become a good gardener."

LIVINGSTON COUNTY CLUB ORGANIZED

A group of Violet enthusiasts met at the Masonic Hall, Livonia, N. Y. on July 13, 1949 from several surrounding towns and organized the Livingston County African Violet Club. Mrs. Fred Flory presided as chairman of the meeting.

The following officers were elected,

President, Mrs. Ray Colegrove
1st V. Pres., Mrs. Mabel Jenks
2nd V. Pres., Mrs. Kenneth Gillette.
Secretary, Miss Louise Heberton
Treasurer, Mrs. Everett Hayward
Press Corr., Mrs. Donald Sharpe

Mr. Glenn Horton of Pennyan, N. Y. gave a talk on "Soil and Care of African Violets". A round table discussion was held. Refreshments were served.

TOPEKA SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY

The Topeka Saintpaulia Society, Topeka, Kansas was organized on July 22, 1949 and holds its meetings on the third Friday of each month. Two parties are planned for the year as well as a tea and exhibition in the Spring. A shut-in project is to be financed thru the sale of plants which are to be grown from leaves donated by all the members.

Officers for this club are:

President, Mrs. Joseph Mitlawski
V. Pres., Mrs. Charles Montgomery, Jr.
Secretary, Mrs. M. C. Dean

CLUB AT CRYSTAL LAKE

The Crystal Lake African Violet Club of the Crystal Lake area in Illinois organized recently and elected the following officers:

President, Mrs. Robert Kirwin
V. Pres., Mrs. William F. Lucke
Secretary, Mrs. Wm. F. Nelson
Treasurer, Mrs. Roy McLaughlin
Program Comm., Mrs. Harry Adams
Mrs. H. E. Hann

Publicity, Mrs. H. R. Patterson
Tele. Comm., Mrs. W. Sagers
Mrs. J. Williams

Transportation, Mrs. C. Millar

This new club, membership limited to 25, meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month and is aiming for educational programs.

WOODLAND AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB

The Woodland African Violet Club of Anniston, Alabama, was organized Tuesday, March 29, 1949. Meetings are held in the members' homes the 4th Tuesday of each month.

Officers elected were:

President, Mrs. A. M. Ellenburg
V. Pres., Mrs. J. P. Richardson
Secretary, Mrs. D. E. Jones
Treasurer, Mrs. C. B. Cain

SANTA MONICA SOCIETY

The Santa Monica Bay Chapter was organized on April 27, 1949 with eight charter members. The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. J. R. Hall.

Officers elected were:

President, Mrs. E. O. Sherer
V. Pres., Mrs. Wm. Haskell
Secy. & Treas., Mrs. J. R. Hall

Permanent meeting place for this club is the auditorium of the Brentwood market. Meetings are on the 1st Tuesday of each month.

On May 26th Mrs. Clarrissa Harris, Director of Region 10 was present to install the officers, and gave an interesting talk about Violets.

Season's Greetings

to

Our Violet Friends



Tinari Floral Gardens

Saintpaulia Growers, Specialists, Hybridizers

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